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on Tuesday, 12 July 1994, at 10 a.m.

President : Mr. TEJERA PARIS (Venezuela)
(Vice-President)

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Coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system related to the following theme: (continued)

(b) International cooperation within the United Nations system against the illicit production, sales, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances (continued)

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In the absence of the President, Mr. Tejera Paris (Venezuela), Vice-President, took the chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

COORDINATION OF THE POLICIES AND ACTIVITIES OF THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND OTHER BODIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM RELATED TO THE FOLLOWING THEME (continued) (A/49/204-E/1994/90, A/49/205-E/1994/91):

(b) INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM AGAINST THE ILLICIT PRODUCTION, SALES, DEMAND, TRAFFIC AND DISTRIBUTION OF NARCOTIC DRUGS AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES (continued) (E/1994/58, E/1994/95)

Mr. VENKATARAMAN (United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)) said that cooperation with the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) was well under way and that UNIDO was about to conclude a Memorandum of Understanding with UNDCP with a view to developing joint activities. Its overall programme strategy was to fight the illicit drug business establishment by creating investment opportunities for the private sector, including farmers, and thus to fight an illicit but efficient business with another efficient, but legal, private business.

The drug problem in developing countries was directly related to the economic and employment situation; therefore a techno-economic base dependent on industrial development must be created, which would contribute directly to poverty alleviation. Crop substitution for the purpose of reducing or eliminating the cultivation of illicit drug crops had been only partially successful, since the income thus generated was comparatively low. It was worth noting, however, that the income to farmers derived from the cultivation of illicit drugs was a mere 6 per cent of their wholesale value in urban markets. Several high value-added agro-industrial products, if selected properly according to potential markets, could generate a comparable income for those farmers, however. Among strategies adopted were the development of small-scale industries in areas close to illicit growing areas in order to reduce migration to those areas, and assistance to licit opium-growing countries in the efficient conversion into licit drugs to minimize any excess stocks. In illicit growing areas, women were being integrated into legal economic activities such as processing of food and spices to motivate them to cultivate alternative crops. In addition, UNIDO had addressed the associated problem of the spread of HIV/AIDS among

(Mr. Venkataraman)

drug addicts by initiating projects for the production of disposable syringes and other medical supplies.

Mr. VILLALOBOS (Chile) said that his Government agreed with the primary importance accorded in the report of the Secretary-General (E/1994/58) to national master plans for drug abuse prevention and control. The major requirement for a successful approach to the problem was the political will of States, but they, in turn, required support from international organizations. The work of UNDCP in that area had been outstanding, but the other organizations of the United Nations system must join in that effort to a greater degree. Chile had received technical assistance from the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Labour Organization (ILO) and believed that bodies such as the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) could make a significant contribution in the area of drug control.

Chile placed great importance on international cooperation because it understood that, without it, any efforts to attack the drug problem would be frustrated. It had entered into agreements with many countries, including its neighbours, Argentina, Bolivia and Peru, which had resulted in police and judicial cooperation, mutual support for education and treatment programmes, and the control of chemical substances and other relevant materials. Those four countries had signed a cooperation agreement with UNDCP to develop joint projects, with its support, in the areas of prevention and treatment, trafficking, trade in precursors, money laundering and alternative development. That experience with subregional agreements could be duplicated in other regions and was a realistic way for UNDCP to achieve its goals.

Mr. TURNQUEST (Bahamas) said that because of the drug problem, his Government had been burdened with the need to spend its already meagre resources on law enforcement control of illicit transit traffic and on treatment and rehabilitation of the victims of drug abuse. Undoubtedly, the most significant development in drug control had been the creating of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme. While it applauded the progress made in the three short years since it became operational, his delegation agreed that international cooperation should be strengthened in order to maximize the impact of United Nations anti-drug activities and to ensure consistency with other international and national

(Mr. Turnquest, Bahamas)

efforts. UNDCP could make a valuable contribution only if Governments gave it clear directives and the authority to discharge its mandate. It was the responsibility of Member States to become directly involved in its work, which required careful assessment of existing programmes with the system, with the objective of evaluating and determining whether it was responding to the problem adequately. To ensure better coordination, a closer, substantive working relationship should be developed between UNDCP and its main partners to enable them to formulate mutually supportive activities while respecting the lead agency concept.

His delegation also shared the view that international financial institutions must become more directly involved in system wide activities and supported the recommendation that UNDCP should further its dialogue with such institutions to include proposals such as drug-oriented economic research activities to assess the economic and social impact of illicit production, trafficking and abuse. The Global Programme of Action was a blueprint setting out a comprehensive course of action for drug abuse control in all its aspects and an integral part of the global strategy for drug abuse control. Primary responsibility lay with Governments, and the master plan approach provided a strategy for maximizing national efforts. His delegation did not, however, regard master plans as project documents. Rather, it was the articulation by Member States of their priorities and objectives in all areas of drug control and the steps that they intended to take to implement them. Once they were formulated, the United Nations must be ready to respond to the policy guidelines and directives of Member States.

While UNDCP had intensified its fund-raising activities, a budget deficit was anticipated towards the end of the current biennium. Without new pledges, it would be difficult to maintain its commitment to the expansion of its activities. UNDCP could hardly be expected to carry out its extensive mandate or to be competent and effective if it did not have the required level of resources.

In the examination of the status of international cooperation in drug abuse control, the role of the three principal bodies of the system with responsibility in that area, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, must be kept in mind. Their interconnectedness was crucial to the overall functioning of all other United Nations organs and agencies involved with drugs, and they must be examined closely to determine whether they were living up to

(Mr. Turnquest, Bahamas)

their respective mandates. The multidimensional nature of drug abuse and illicit trafficking posed very difficult challenges, and efforts to coordinate better the work of all relevant agencies was in the best interest of all countries.

Miss FERTEKLIGIL (Observer for Turkey) said that Turkey favoured a balanced approach to the drug problem that took into account all the different aspects, including supply and demand, illicit traffic, rehabilitation and money laundering. It also supported the UNDCP approach at the national, regional and global level and the close cooperation at all levels.

The work of the thirty-seventh session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs had led to consensus on the main lines of action in that area. Her delegation hoped that the Council would adopt the draft resolutions issuing from that session.

Her delegation reaffirmed its support to UNDCP as the central agency for the funding of programmes and activities to combat drugs. It must be given appropriate financial resources, and ways must be found to increase voluntary contributions in order to provide it with a solid financial foundation. Increased allocation of resources to general purposes rather than to specific projects could lead to better use of funds for regional and subregional programmes and to improvements in long-term planning and management.

As a traditional drug-producing country, Turkey had obtained remarkable results in combating illicit production, abuse and traffic in drugs. Because of its location on the famous Balkan route, however, it faced growing concerns regarding illicit transit and was mobilizing considerable resources to meet that challenge. In that connection, she stressed the importance of bilateral and regional cooperation and close cooperation with the International Customs Union and Interpol.

The growing link between organized crime and the drug problem required increased coordination between UNDP activities and the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division so that the two institutions could benefit from each other's experience.

Education, through public awareness campaigns in the press, were a crucial element in an effective campaign against drugs. Treatment and rehabilitation of addicts was also another very important aspect of the problem. The effective functioning of the international drug control system depended on the adherence by the greatest possible number of producing and exporting countries to existing

(Miss Fertekligil, Turkey)

international legal instruments and on the adoption by each of the necessary drug control measures in their own countries.

Mr. EMBLAD (Director, Substance Abuse Programme, World Health Organization) said that the debate thus far on the topic of narcotic drugs raised the concern that the World Health Organization (WHO) was the only specialized agency yet to have followed the General Assembly recommendation to set up a programme to deal directly with the problem of the abuse of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. Furthermore, he was disappointed that the discussion of that item was not using the format of a more open and free debate, which might have been more constructive for all the participants.

Although the traditional pattern of dealing with alcohol and drug problems had been to develop separate policies for alcohol, tobacco, illicit drugs and prescribed psychotropics, there was a rationale for a more comprehensive approach to all drug-related problems. The use of all such substances could lead to harm, and in many countries treatment services and prevention programmes for both licit and illicit substances were already under a single administrative structure. Much more would be achieved by regarding the roles of the specialized agencies as complementary rather than by referring to their respective coordinating functions. WHO had a worldwide network of expertise that could be made available to other United Nations organizations. However, a single solution would not apply everywhere, and it was important to have alternative approaches and complementary activities suitable for different purposes.

The criteria for successful cooperation within the united Nations system were that collaborating agencies must have shared goals and objectives and that both parties would be able to achieve more by working together than by working separately. Furthermore, the specific mandates of collaborating agencies must always be fully recognized and respected. WHO was ready to assist Governments in the preparation of national plans, although little use had been made of its expertise in recent years. Under the international drug control conventions, WHO had the exclusive mandate to assess dependence-producing psychoactive substances and make recommendations concerning their international control. It also had a mandate to provide advice on treatment approaches and the management of health problems associated with substance

(Mr. Emblad)

use. It had responsibility for developing and disseminating appropriate health technology and training health personnel.

WHO fully supported the principle of sharing data among organizations on a continuous basis and had just received some country drug abuse profiles from UNDCP. Their usefulness could have been improved, however, if collaboration had been sought from WHO during their preparation.

Resources and recommendations alone would not achieve the purpose of those programmes. The political will to cooperate to overcome the problem was the main requirement.

Mr. DZUNDEV (Observer for the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) said that priority should be given to a timely exchange of information on drug-related problems among States as well as within the United Nations system. The role of the International Narcotics Control Board should be strengthened, and, at the national level, customs administration should become more stringent. No effort should be spared to curb drug demand on the national level. Basic institutional infrastructure must be developed to coordinate national demand reduction initiatives, and more cooperation was needed between law enforcement agencies. The role of the community and family was also of great importance.

Mr. Kwang-Jae LEE (Republic of Korea) commended the work of the global Programme of Action, the United Nations System-Wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control and the recent initiative of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to expand cooperation among United Nations agencies by proposing a "bottom-up approach" initiated at the country level.

He drew attention to the importance of mobilizing additional contributions from international financial institutions, particularly for alternative development projects in order to halt drug cultivation. That accounted for 40 per cent of the UNDCP budget. He also stressed the importance of innovative fund-raising and awareness-building initiatives such as the anti-drug Goodwill Ambassadors. The first Goodwill Ambassador, the Chung Trio, of the Republic of Korea had been quite successful in raising funds through benefit concerts.

Action must be taken to block the rapidly growing involvement of organized crime in drug trafficking. Currently, thousands of banks were believed to be controlled by organized crime. Joint action by Governments was vital, since it was difficult for

(Mr. Kwang-Jae Lee, Republic of Korea)

national authorities to control drug trafficking, once it was in the hands of organized crime.

The role of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 must be strengthened. Many countries, including Korea, were in the process of adjusting their domestic laws in order to accede to that Convention. Lastly, he wished to stress the importance of establishing a worldwide database to promote the exchange of information among countries and international organizations. In that connection, his delegation welcomed the initiative by the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) to develop a database.

Mr. LUKASIK (Poland) noted that Poland was now a party to all international instruments on drug control and had developed the necessary infrastructure and standards in a relatively short time. In May, it had deposited instruments of ratification for the 1988 Convention against Illicit Traffic and had done much to amend its laws to cover such new areas as the control of precursors, money laundering and mutual legal assistance. An Inter-Ministerial Coordinating Task Force for the Control of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances had been established. Chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Justice, the new Task Force comprised representatives of various ministries and had begun to coordinate activities in the fields of prevention, treatment and rehabilitation, law enforcement legislation and information. Pursuant to the relevant provisions of the 1988 Convention, Poland would introduce penalties for the possession of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. In that connection, Polish experts had recently participated in a seminar held jointly with the Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe.

His delegation welcomed the statement delivered by the Executive Director of UNDCP and its valuable proposals on the Programme's role as coordinator and catalyst for action. Coordination was particularly vital in view of the global dimensions which drug trafficking had acquired through organized crime networks. His delegation therefore welcomed the enhanced cooperation and coordination between UNDCP and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and other organizations of the United Nations system. It also agreed that UNDCP should have the broadest possible mandate in order to coordinate the fight against narcotic drugs.

(Mr. Lukasik, Poland)

However, drug strategies at the national level were equally important. National policy should be aimed at reducing the non-medical application or narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. The liberalization of certain anti-drug regulations, which had been highlighted by the media, would not facilitate the establishment of a coherent drug control system. His delegation shared the view of the European Union that loopholes in a unified approach to the law were immediately exploited by black-market operators. That made it more urgent than ever for all States to fulfil their obligations under international agreements.

The participation of local non-governmental organizations must be ensured in demand reduction activities, the latest focus of drug control activities. His delegation supported the inclusion of educational programmes, the promotion of healthy lifestyles and community development in the agenda of the thirty-eighth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. The basic principles of demand reduction, prevention strategies and the interrelationship between law enforcement and medical services constituted an interesting framework for the discussions to be held under that agenda item. Those discussions should be aimed at exchanging experience and promoting effective plans of action.

Mr. RAICHEV (Bulgaria) said that his delegation attached particular importance to international cooperation in the field of drug control and the role of the United Nations in that endeavour. The United Nations should also support active cooperation among relevant national authorities at the national, regional and subregional levels, and on a bilateral basis. His delegation supported the activities of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the coordinating role of UNDCP in implementing the Global Programme of Action and the role of the International Narcotics Control Board as an independent body for monitoring the implementation of international conventions. In June 1993, an expert mission of the Board had helped Bulgaria to identify and eliminate deficiencies in its drug control policy and activities.

Bulgaria attached great importance to improving national capacity-building for drug control. In July 1993, it had set up an inter-ministerial committee to coordinate drug control activity. In 1991, it had established a special police unit in the Ministry of the Interior for combating organized crime. The unit had operative links with the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol) and

(Mr. Raichev, Bulgaria)

with national agencies of other countries. Technical assistance, including equipment and training for law enforcement authorities, was of paramount importance in building national capacity and strengthening drug control along the borders and inside national territory. His delegation hoped that bilateral donors and UNDCP would continue their fruitful cooperation in that area.

Bulgaria had been one of the first countries to sign and ratify existing international legal instruments on drugs control. It had also acceded to the Council of Europe Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds of Crime. With the support of the UNDCP Treaty Implementation and Legal Affairs Branch, its legislative authorities had begun to bring national legislation into conformity with the Council of Europe Convention.

In Bulgaria, a major transit country for drugs, customs authorities had made a number of seizures along the so-called Balkan route (36 seizures in 1993, including 28 seizures of heroin). According to United Nations data, about 70 per cent of illicit trafficking in heroin to Western European countries took place along the classic Balkan route. According to German statistics, more heroin had been seized by Bulgarian authorities than by any other country along the Balkan route. The sanctions imposed on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia had forced most transport vehicles to head for Bulgaria's norther border along the Danube River, where the first 13 seizures had been made.

In addition, a domestic illicit market for psychotropic substances - and probably heroin as well - was developing. In the past two years, illegal cultivation of opium poppy and cannabis had been increasing in regions with high rates of unemployment. The decentralization and privatization of the pharmaceutical industry had made it increasingly difficult to control the production and spread of psychotropic substances.

His delegation shared the view that transit countries deserved special attention in the drug control effort. The experience gathered by already existing UNDCP regional centres could be successfully applied to the Balkan region. Bulgaria needed additional resources in order to address the problem of intensive traffic across its southern border. His Government was therefore considering an arrangement whereby it would swap debt for the control of illicit trafficking and drug abuse.

Mr. GULEY (Ukraine) said that he agreed with the view that, although significant progress had been made in enhancing coordination of United Nations activities in combating drug abuse, there was considerable room for improvement. In that connection, he stressed the need to make use of the Organization's unique potential as the centre for coordinating international action in the field of drug control and hoped that the radical restructuring of United Nations activities in that area would be instrumental in achieving that goal.

Ukraine fully supported the work of UNDCP in promoting accession by all States to the basic international instruments for combating drug abuse as well as compliance with the relevant obligations, particularly the need to bring national legislation into accordance with the provisions of those documents. Ukraine was a party to the 1961, 1971 and 1988 Conventions and had drawn up draft laws to incorporate their provisions in its national legislation.

In Ukraine, a national programme had been approved to combat drug abuse and illicit trafficking for 1994-1997 and a coordinating council had been set up to oversee the activities of all State institutions and community organizations in that regard. Ukrainian health care agencies had signed agreements with all CIS member States on cooperation in combating illicit drug trafficking and it was hoped that similar agreements would be signed with European States.

He underscored the importance of UNDCP activities with regard to the Eastern European States, which were being increasingly used for the transit of narcotic drugs to the West. In that connection, the establishment of a common database concerning drug smuggling and persons involved in such operations could be a major step forward by the relevant United Nations agencies.

His country attached particular importance to the work of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. At its recent session, the Commission had adopted a number of important draft resolutions, including one on the establishment of a working group on cooperation at sea (A/CN/1994/L.12/Rev.1). Ukraine was interested in participating in the work of that group since the illegal drug trafficking by sea routes was a major problem for his country.

Mr. SUTOYO (Indonesia) said that greater coordination of activities by UNDCP was vital at a time when financial resources for anti-drug activity were limited. In that connection, his delegation agreed with the conclusions contained in the report of the Secretary-General on a System-Wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse

(Mr. Sutoyo, Indonesia)

Control (A/49/139). UNDCP must go beyond its role as coordinator to ensure that other parts of the system incorporated aspects of drug control into their own programmes. The formulation of principles or guidelines drawing on policy positions could facilitate coordination (A/1994/58, para. 15). Coordination should be aimed at achieving substantive goals and objectives; to that end, certain activities which could be more readily implemented should be given priority. Referring to the report of the Secretary-General on the status of international cooperation in drug abuse control within the United Nations system (E/1994/58), he stressed that UNDCP must focus on priority areas that dovetailed with national, subregional and regional strategies and on areas in which the United Nations system had a comparative advantage.

His delegation welcomed the UNDCP initiative to elaborate inter-agency agreements that set forth principles and frameworks for collaboration and coordination in the area of reporting. It also accorded high priority to establishing closer links with the international financial institutions. It agreed that the input of specialized organizations were crucial in view of the multifaceted nature of the drug problem and that, beyond the mere avoidance of duplication, coordination efforts should be proactive. His delegation also welcomed the fact that UNDCP had been granted observer status with the Joint Consultative Group on Policy. Developing countries already struggling to build national infrastructure should receive assistance in the formulation of their master plans which were also significant at the international, regional and subregional levels.

His delegation welcomed the priority attached to additional studies on the socio-economic impact of illicit drug trafficking and abuse. Such studies would help to sensitize development agencies to the implications of the drug problem. The urgency of addressing the drug problems as part of development programmes and policies was underscored by the fact that, according to the studies, the overall cost of drug abuse accounted for as much as 5 per cent of the world's annual gross domestic product. In that connection, his delegation believed that UNDCP should play a role in the forthcoming World Summit for Social Development. It looked forward to studying in detail the multi-agency paper on the social and economic consequences of illicit drug production, trafficking and abuse to be submitted at the Summit. In conclusion, his delegation welcomed the observations and recommendations contained in

(Mr. Sutoyo, Indonesia)

the report of the Secretary-General on the status of international cooperation in drug abuse control within the United Nations system (E/1994/58).

Mrs. LIMJUCO (Philippines) said that her country's drug problems was aggravated by the proximity to the sources of supply, its location at the crossroads of commerce and transportation in South-East Asia and the population density of its large cities. Her delegation was concerned about the impact of the drug problem on children all over the world, particularly street children and children in other highly vulnerable positions. It was also deeply concerned about the situation of transit countries, particularly since traffickers were constantly changing and expanding transit routes to include more countries in order to elude detection. Another problem was the seemingly unabating cultivation of narcotic drugs in many countries, including her own, where marijuana was grown.

Her Government unequivocally supported strategies aimed at protecting children, particularly street children, from substance abuse through community development, empowerment, education and activities which offered them a healthier, safer and more constructive lifestyle. It supported the improved coordination of policies and programmes, particularly in three areas. The first area was the establishment and maintenance of a readily accessible database on programmes of the United Nations system and access to comparable databases maintained by regional and multilateral organizations; the second area was technical cooperation activities in drug abuse control, particularly at the operational level, in highly vulnerable countries such as transit States like the Philippines; the third area was judicial action with penal measures at the national level and possibly at the international level, in order to combat powerful drug lords and cartels. Her delegation also supported initiatives to address the problem of illicit drug cultivation, particularly long-term cultivation, within the context of integrated development programmes aimed at introducing economically viable alternative crops.

Ms. TOMKINSON (Australia) expressed her delegation's full support for the role of UNDCP but noted that, some three years after its creation, there was still duplication of effort within the United Nations system in combating the spread of illicit drugs. That diluted scarce resources and reduced effectiveness. The System-Wide Action Plan was not in place and it lacked both a time-frame for implementation and a realistic cost analysis.

(Ms. Tomkinson, Australia)

Greater collaboration was necessary between UNDCP and its main partners within the United Nations system. The System-Wide Action Plan must provide a centralized framework for proposals on funding and resources.

The uncoordinated nature of the System-Wide Action Plan was accentuated by the fact that its segments were presented by agency rather than by theme. Her delegation urged UNDCP, within the scope of its mandate set forth in General Assembly resolutions 45/179, 48/12 and 48/112, to bring together the various elements of the Plan so that clear priorities could be set and action could be taken without further delay. To that end, cooperative efforts on the part of each agency within the United Nations system were necessary. Consideration should also be given to strengthening UNDCP as a joint Programme and to giving it control of the resources and programmes of the other United Nations agencies that carried out drug control activities.

Mr. FITSCHEN (Germany), speaking on behalf of the European Union, asked the Executive Director of UNDCP which agencies or programmes had not yet elaborated plans for the implementation of the System-Wide Action Plan and why. He would appreciate specific information on the problems of international financial institutions regarding contributions to the System-Wide Action Plan and on possible solutions to those problems. He wondered what institutional and practical problems the Programme had encountered in its efforts to collaborate with regional bodies both within the United Nations system and outside it. He also inquired about the practical difficulties of field-level coordination. The same questions could be put in reverse to the different agencies and programmes, particularly the financial institutions, concerning their cooperation with UNDCP. The representatives of the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations and of the World Health Organization had already made some remarks concerning their relationship with UNDCP. Further comments would be welcome.

Mr. GIACOMELLI (Executive Director, United Nations International Drug Control Programme) said that those agencies and funds which had not contributed were not mentioned in the report of the Secretary-General. He apologized for the exclusion of FAO and UNICEF, which had indeed contributed but which had not been included in the report because of printing deadlines. Two categories of UNDCP partners could be identified. First, there were those agencies which had cooperated

(Mr. Giacomelli)

with UNDCP predecessors, mainly the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control (UNFDAC), and which believed that UNDCP too was a donor, even though it was not.

UNDCP had established a Programme Review Committee to ensure that projects were approved only when they reflected the policy and action plans submitted by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. The ability of various agencies to cooperate and accept increased coordination depended on the specific directives given by top management and the readiness of different offices and programmes to follow them. Precedent was a strong factor in any organization and the "trickle down" effect could not really be relied upon. It was obvious that the process of adjusting priorities and methodologies has a painful one in each organization. One of the main difficulties for UNDCP in the past three years had been finding budget funds for new activities. Much progress had been made in that regard and the Programme's dialogue with its partners had been developing.

Promoting acceptance of the new perception of drug-related aspects in various programmes and activities was a major task. Some agencies, particularly those involved in development, considered that drug-related activities were not particularly relevant to their mandates and work and should be dealt with by non-governmental organizations and humanitarian organizations. It took time to accept the fact that drug abuse was not exclusively a police or health problem and had a major impact on finance, development and politics. Steps had to be taken at an early stage to avoid situations such as that in Afghanistan, where drugs had become a problem as a result of a man-made disaster.

It took time to establish a dialogue and the Programme was making good progress in that regard. The bottom-up approach in coordinating activities at the field level had been a great success. It was essential to conduct a dialogue with Headquarters in order to determine a common mandate and methodology for working together. Only through that dialogue and the signing of agreements would it be possible to send the right instructions from Headquarters to the field. Close cooperation was essential in order to take initiative to identify action to be taken, and a balanced approach was necessary to determine strategies and ensure a division of labour in the field. The Programme was faced with a considerable task in providing updated information on the drug problem as it related to the new concept of human development. UNDCP was working with numerous agencies in order to present a common position at the World

(Mr. Giacomelli)

Summit for Social Development. He hoped that the final declaration would take account of drug-related issues relating to finance, the work-place, unemployment, women and children.

Mr. LUNDBORG (Observer for Sweden) said that the Programme's budget was decreasing in view of the minor commitment on the part of United Nations agencies and the rest of the system. In effect, the ability of UNDCP to coordinate was very limited since other agencies had little interest in the drug issue. He wondered how that situation could be changed. The System-Wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control should be changed from a catalogue of different projects in order to involve agencies in drug control and make them feel that they were part of the Plan. He asked how the Programme could involve organizations in field-level activities, which was crucial.

The master plan concept could be an instrument for involving organizations and mobilizing resources in drug-related activities. UNDCP could be a catalyst in identifying crucial activities to be undertaken at the field level. He inquired to what extent drug-related activities had been incorporated in the IPF system and what problems arose in including such activities in country programmes. Lastly, he wished to know what could be done to increase the involvement of UNICEF in drug-related activities.

Mr. GICOMELLI (United Nations International Drug Control Programme) said that he agreed that the System-Wide Action Plan should not be a list of projects. UNDCP had been defining different methodologies with its partners. At the field level, it was possible to identify common projects at an early stage. The Programme's field-office network had been undergoing a dramatic change in order to focus on the overall mandate of UNDCP. At the field level, where projects had to be formulated, the Programme sought to promote more effective local management. The master plans would have to be integrated into similar, broader exercises at the country level but must be formulated with full participation by representatives at the local level. It was essential to bear in mind that the master plan must remain an exercise by Governments, which were to be assisted by the Programme and the relevant agencies. Through such cooperation the master plans would constitute an effective basis for forming a global network. It should also be kept in mind that coordination was a slow, painstaking process that was sometimes at cross purposes

(Mr. Giacomelli)

with efforts to accelerate activities. Ideas were put forward in one organization and spread to others and were developed gradually as part of a collective endeavour.

Mr. EMBLAD (World Health Organization) said that his organization was still encountering the same difficulties that it had in the past. WHO had submitted approximately 30 proposals that had not been attended to because procedures were too complicated and time-consuming. Furthermore, there was a lack of expertise to review the technical validity of some of the proposals made. Agencies lacked information on the criteria for approving proposals, which was a long and expensive exercise. WHO was no longer in a position to submit new proposals until action had been taken on those that had already been put forward.

The master plans, which were being prepared to take into consideration issues relating to demand reduction, were not credible if the advice of WHO, the coordinator for international health issues, was consistently ignored or not even requested. WHO had repeatedly called upon the Programme to invite it to provide additional information for master plans. UNDCP should invite the World Health Organization to participate in that exercise as a matter of routine.

WHO had complied rigorously with the provisions of the System-Wide Action Plan and the Global Plan of Action, had met all the deadlines established by the Economic and Social Council and provided texts on all the issues in question. More often than not, however, those texts had been changed or abridged without consulting it. It was WHO's view that, where Member States had designated an agency to coordinate the rest of the system, that agency also had a major responsibility to distribute the funds allocated to it and to invite other agencies to submit proposals involving the use of those funds. That had not happened in the case of UNDCP. However, WHO wished to look towards the future and renewed its offer to cooperate with UNDCP and the other agencies involved in the drug abuse effort.

Mr. SAHRAOUI (Observer for Algeria), noting that General Assembly resolution 48/112 invited the relevant agencies of the United Nations system to make greater progress in incorporating within their programmes and activities action aimed at dealing with drug-related problems, asked the representatives of UNICEF and UNDCP what had been done to carry out that mandate.

Mr. GIACOMELLI (United Nations International Drug Control Programme) said that the Programme was continuing to develop its dialogue with UNICEF but did not feel that it was in a position as yet to provide an answer to the Algerian representative's question which would do justice to the results of that dialogue.

Mr. ALTESMAN (United Nations Children's Fund), replying to the representatives of Sweden an Algeria, said that, although UNICEF was not a major participant in direct drug abuse projects, it felt that it could make a major contribution in areas such as the incorporation of drug abuse information in primary school curriculum and by participating in such health education mobilization efforts as that represented by the publication "Facts for Life", which incorporated drug abuse information specifically related to the problems of individual countries, as well as by its work on the problem of street children, which incorporated a drug abuse dimension. It must be recognized that all the agencies involved were still working out a framework for cooperation, but in its experience to date UNICEF had found UNDCP to be receptive in planning for country-level coordination and in helping to place de focus of international efforts on action.

Mr. HONAD (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) agreed that there was still much room for improvement in coordinating the work of the agencies on drug abuse. UNESCO was not one of the core agencies involved with that problem, but, as many delegations had noted, preventive education could play a vital role in reducing the demand for drugs. Due credit should also be given to such less dramatic activities.

Mr. SHAHANDEH (International Labour Organization) agreed with the representative of Sweden that the international effort to deal with the problem of drug abuse was now in crisis, but noted that the crisis was one of long standing. ILO's experience had been that the developing coordination with UNDCP was very promising; it felt, however, that in order to maintain effective ongoing coordination it was necessary to develop formal programmes of cooperation as well as informal coordinating networks. The master plans developed by UNDCP had much potential, but the involvement of the agencies at an early date would help make them more comprehensive and promote their implementation by the agencies. His agency felt that there was also a need to build bridges between the individual agencies in the form of collaborative projects in such areas as the incorporation of demand reduction efforts in training programmes.

Mr. MAYHOFER-GRUENBUEHEL (Observer for Austria), said that the comments made by the representative of WHO gave rise to serious concern. The forthcoming meeting of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC), which would take up the question of drug abuse, offered UNDCP a unique opportunity, and he wondered what plans the Programme was making to take advantage of that opportunity. Beyond UNDCP's coordinating role, however, the Programme also had a responsibility to play a leading role in the worldwide drug abuse effort. He asked what the Programme was doing in that respect.

Mr. GIACOMELLI (United Nations International Drug Control Programme), replying to the comments by the representative of WHO, said that, when a large number of projects and proposals was received at the same time, as had been the case with WHO, time was needed to evaluate them, particularly with respect to their quality. The Programme had had some initial difficulties in dealing with those projects because it did not wish to issue a blank check to anyone, as had been the case in the past. However, he was sure that there was room for improvement in the Programme's work and he would keep the comments made by the representative of WHO in mind. In any event, the channels of communication between the agencies and the Programme were open, and care would be taken in the future to ensure that a common effort was made.

On the specific question of the forthcoming ACC meeting, he said that the Programme was preparing for that occasion in cooperation with the ACC Sub-Committee on Drug Abuse Control. In general, it must be recognized that difficulties would inevitably arise in the process of creating a more integrated system; in that respect what was needed above all was a change in attitude and culture.

Although reference had been made in General Assembly resolution 45/179 to the possibility of a leadership role for the Programme at the regional level, the Programme had been given no specific mandate in that respect. It was therefore necessary to proceed cautiously; the Programme was however, pursuing the matter energetically and with promising results.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.

UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social Council

PROVISIONAL

E/1994/SR.29
12 December 1994

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Substantive session of 1994

PROVISIONAL SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 29th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Tuesday, 12 July 1994, at 3 p.m.

President : Mr. TEJERA PARIS (Venezuela)
(Vice-President)

CONTENTS

Coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system related to the following theme: (continued)

(b) International cooperation within the United Nations system against the illicit production, sales, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances (continued)

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In the absence of the President, Mr. Tejera Paris (Venezuela), Vice-President, took the chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.m.

COORDINATION OF THE POLICIES AND ACTIVITIES OF THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND OTHER BODIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM RELATED TO THE FOLLOWING THEME (continued) (A/49/204-E/1994/90, A/49/205-E/1994/91):

(b) INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM AGAINST THE ILLICIT PRODUCTION, SALES, DEMAND, TRAFFIC AND DISTRIBUTION OF NARCOTIC DRUGS AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES (E/1994/58, E/1994/95)

Mr. LINDLEY (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)) said that since the major concern of FAO was with the agricultural sector, it realized that rural development could not be discussed without consideration of the problem of illicit drugs, and it included the issue in many of its plans for future activity. Government interest was a key factor in the extent of FAO involvement in the problem of drug abuse. FAO was particularly interested in remote-sensing and satellite imagery, crop substitution, the appropriate use of herbicides, and educational programmes for young people and adults, particularly programmes examining the relationship between drug abuse and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS). In the area of demand reduction, also, the greatest strengths of FAO were in the area of rural development. The mandate for coordination in the field of drug abuse lay with the united Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP); other agencies should act within their own spheres of influence. Cooperation between FAO and UNDCP had been fruitful.

In response to the representative of Austria, he said that FAO had proposed an agenda item for the September meeting of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) Subcommittee on Drug Abuse Control, which would examine the question of addressing young people as an audience.

Ms. CHAHKAR-FRHANG (United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)) said that the representative of Sweden had asked how UNDP could allocate Indicative Planning Figure (IPF) resources to the fight against illicit drugs. As the representative of the United States had remarked, the consequences of trafficking in drugs undermined the very programmes that United Nations agencies were attempting to promote. However, the inverse was also true; development United Nations programmes were the basis of the fight against illicit drugs. From this point of view, all UNDP anti-

(Ms. Chahkar-Frhang)

poverty programmes were also a means of fighting the drug problem. Coordination and cooperation on the part of all agencies concerned was essential to this project.

During the fifth programming cycle, several programmes had been financed or co-financed with IPF funds with the help of UNDCP and national Governments. Most UNDP activities in the field of drug abuse had been largely financed through the Special Programme Resources Fund, which had been allocated for this purpose during the fifth programming cycle. Those funds, which amounted to US$ 3.5 million, had provided a catalyst which allowed IPF monies to be allocated to the fight against illicit drugs, particularly in the Latin American and Caribbean countries.

Mr. HINESTROSA REY (Colombia) said that UNDCP had a key role to play in coordination and production of the System-Wide Action Plan on Drug Control (SWAP), which must be finalized as soon as possible. A detailed, concrete master plan was a requirement for clarity of financing, coordination and execution at local, national and regional levels. The master plan would also be of use in the modernization of drug information systems and improvement of coordination among United Nations agencies, financial organizations and donor countries under the aegis of UNDCP.

It was important to achieve coordination among Member States and regional organizations; the work of the Inter-American Centre for Training in Public Administration, under the aegis of the Organization of American States, had been particularly useful in that area. There was also a great need for practical and effective activity in planning and coordination. The experience of other countries could be brought to bear on the problem.

Mrs. ESPINOSA (Mexico) expressed pleasure that not only countries, but also United Nations agencies were aware of the seriousness of the drug problem and were willing to work together on coordination. There seemed to be a general consensus that such coordination must take place under the aegis of UNDCP.

She requested clarification of the statement by the Executive Director of UNDCP to the effect that SWAP, in its initial form, had reached the limits of its potential. Noting that coordination activities might originate either with United Nations agencies or with UNDCP, she asked the Executive Director how he intended to proceed with the work of coordination.

It was essential that the drug problem should be included in any consideration of the development process. The question had been treated in various individual

(Mrs. Espinosa, Mexico)

legal instruments, but had not been globally included in the question of development. She cited the importance of the document that would be produced at the end of the current coordination segment of the Economic and Social Council and hoped that it would be available as soon as possible so that it could be discussed in preparation for the 1995 World Summit for Social Development.

Mr. GIACOMELLI (Executive Director, United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP)) said that SWAP had necessarily been a patchwork composed of the sometimes incompatible views of a number of agencies. ACC had decided to deal primarily with the exchange of views on policy and planning and the shared vision of future activities. In the brief time since that decision, results had been modest, but the "bottom-up" focus and greater involvement at the field level seemed to be leading to better coordination.

He agreed with the representative of Austria that the ACC debate to be held in 1995 was a golden opportunity since it meant that, in future, all agencies concerned with the drug problem would meet once a year. In the past, many agencies had not bothered to participate in meetings of ACC in its previous form; at present, however, most agencies did participate.

Ms. MURUGESAN (India) said that she had shared the curiosity of the representative of Austria regarding the mandate of UNDCP outside the United Nations system, but that her delegation was satisfied with the response of the UNDCP representative. She asked him to elaborate on the role and the mandate of the UNDCP Resident Representatives in Member States. Regarding the UNDCP representative's reference to agreements between his organization and Member States, she wondered whether those agreements had made a significant difference in the drug problem. She also wondered whether the focus of those agreements had been on supply and demand reduction, or whether they had been country-specific and related to national plans of the Governments in question.

Mr. GIACOMELLI (Executive Director, United Nations International Drug Control Programme) said that his organization had only a small network of national and regional offices, and it could not limit its work to those areas because of the global nature of the drug problem. It had been decided to use the existing network of UNDP Resident Representatives as UNDCP coordinators, since they were in a privileged position to take action on the basis of existing programmes. That

(Mr. Giacomelli)

approach had worked well, for example, in Pakistan. But since the Resident Representatives might need to develop their sensitivity to the drug problem, UNDCP had established a mailing list to keep them apprised of discussions of the drug problem in other United Nations bodies. Coordination between UNDP Resident Representatives and UNDCP had been very effective in Central Asia.

At the level of subregional activity, groups of countries frequently shared common problems related to drug abuse, usually along their common borders. It was in their interest to enact compatible legislation and to share information and resources. In southern Latin America, for example, countries frequently had different types of drug problems along different borders. There, the main interest was in matters of law enforcement and customs. Elsewhere, the chief drug-related problem was money laundering; in that case, too, there was room for coordination.

Mr. OTUVELU (Nigeria) said that since no agency had exclusive responsibility in a given area, there were sometimes conflicts on the question of the statutory responsibilities of different agencies. Proper perception and acceptance of the multidisciplinary and multisectoral approach to the drug problem were needed. His delegation recommended discussion and accommodation at both the national and the sectoral level.

It was important to optimize the available resources. Duplication had been a problem in the United Nations system, but there were signs of improvement. At times, however, there was an unwillingness to try new approaches. The Economic and Social Council should recommend that UNDCP and related agencies should find better means of coordination, since the true victims of disputes among agencies were not United Nations bodies, but rather the target populations they hoped to save. Frankness and objectivity were essential to any solution of the drug problem.

Mr. GIACOMELLI (Executive Director, United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP)) said that the very fact that the meeting was taking place was very encouraging. The representative of WHO had mentioned that the level of funding by UNDCP for the Programme on Substance Abuse (PSA) had substantially decreased; he would check the situation because, if it was true, it would be of concern to both UNDCP and PSA since it was important that UNDCP funds should be properly used.

(Mr. Giacomelli)

At the time when PSA had been established, there had been an agreement with WHO that projects should no longer be executed at the country level but that the emphasis should be place on global projects. Through the process of developing and fine tuning its role as watchdog, UNDCP had brought about a tenfold increase in the financial contributions to common activities with WHO over the past three years. Funding levels with other sister organizations had been steadily increasing over that same period. UNDCP had undertaken two evaluations to shed light on its relationship with PSA. One was concerned with the management and the effective use of funds allocated to the financing of activities implemented by PSA, to be completed by September 1994; the other was an evaluation of the demand reduction activities funded by UNDCP; PSA would be fully consulted in the evaluation process and Member States would be informed of the results.

Mr. MAYRHOFER-GRUENBUEHEL (Observer for Austria) drew attention to document E/1994/95 containing a letter from the Chairman of the thirty-seventh session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs addressed to the President, with an annex containing elements for possible consideration by the Council at its coordination segment. Since the annex was primarily addressed to the specialized agencies, he wished to hear their reaction to the document. In addition, the annex should be taken into account when the Council's final document was drafted.

The Executive Director of UNDCP had referred to the importance of the ACC Subcommittee on Drug Abuse Control; Austria agreed that inter-agency meetings could be a very important tool for coordination and synergy if they were well prepared and were attended at the highest possible level; they were the ideal forum for sorting out concerns such as those of the representative of WHO.

The PRESIDENT said that the Council's report would take into account the letter from the Chairman of the thirty-seventh session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

Mr. FITSCHEN (Germany), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that a number of responses had been given to the question he had asked at the previous meeting; he sought the views of the international financial institutions as well.

He requested the Executive Director of UNDCP to elaborate on the "bottom-up" approach and on the relationship between it and the System-Wide Action Plan on Drug Control (SWAP); he asked whether there were indications that the "bottom-up" approach

(Mr. Fitschen, Germany)

was as successful as SWAP and whether the reactions of UNDCP field representatives were encouraging.

Mr. GIACOMELLI (Executive Director, United Nations International Drug Control Programme) said that the "bottom-up" approach was not an alternative to SWAP but would inject an essential element into it. At the field level, it was hoped that input would be received in the form of project proposals, in consultation with local representatives of specialized agencies and regional institutions. Field staff would need to be instructed to engage in cooperation and coordination. The master plan could play a very important role in that respect. The intention of the master plan was to involve all interested parties, although the initiative lay with the country concerned; that approach encouraged countries to develop coordination.

Mr. EMBLAD (World Health Organization (WHO)) said that he agreed that much more could be done to develop cooperation between WHO and UNDCP. WHO welcomed the current debate as a very constructive recognition of what needed to be done.

Mr. AL-MUAKKAF (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that the drug problem was as dangerous as the nuclear threat. The proliferation of narcotic drugs was becoming a threat to world peace and security and was paralysing entire sections of society, especially young people, it was one of the causes of backwardness in some countries.

In the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, there were no serious problem of illicit drug production or use, but its geographical position made it a transit country. His Government had taken steps to punish drug traffickers and had included drug-related provisions in measures in the field of health, education and training. It had entered into agreements with neighbouring countries and also had arrangements to exchange information with the International Criminal Police Organization and with the International Narcotics Control Board; it was a party to United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and to the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, as amended by the 1972 Protocol.

The international community needed to work together in solidarity to combat drugs. Cooperation was needed to combat the demand and supply for drugs, as well as drug trafficking and drug abuse. The United Nations had a vital role to play in that area; coordination between the various agencies involved must be improved.

Mr. BOUCHER (World Bank) said that in paragraph 42 of the report of the Secretary-General (E/1994/58), it was stated that the role of international financial institutions in United Nations system-wide activities had as yet been limited. That was true of the World Bank, not because of any lack of seriousness in its assessment of the drug problem but because of what Governments themselves wanted the World Bank to do. As a lender, the World Bank could only assist Governments in their borrowing programmes to address the problem. The traditional focus had been in the area of agriculture and rural development, in which the World Bank had a comparative advantage in terms of its lending programmes in support of crop substitution programmes. However, a number of crop substitution projects supported by the World Bank had been unsuccessful; it was difficult to provide incentives for crop substitution when the profit to be made on drug crops was so great. Moreover, drug crops were hardy and adaptable and often required little skill to cultivate.

In recent years, the World Bank had focused more on the macroeconomic dimensions of the drug economy. After consultations with UNDCP, it had offered to exchange analytical work relating to the macroeconomic dimensions of the drug problem and implications for government policy. With the consent of the Government concerned, the World Bank would invite UNDCP to discuss the drug problem in its broader dimension, in its consultative groups. The World Bank would endeavour to make its analytical reports available to the system at large.

Demand was just as important as supply; the fight needed to be fought on all fronts simultaneously.

Mr. GIACOMELLI (Executive Director, United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP)) said that UNDCP welcomed the World Bank's availability. In specific cases, UNDCP and the World Bank had already worked together, for example in a study of the socio-economic impact of opium cultivation in Pakistan; UNDCP had an understanding with the World Bank to undertake similar studies in other countries.

While everyone was aware of the difficulty of competing with the income which peasants could obtain from illicit crops, the point was to combine incentives with the implementation of legislation, in line with the relevant conventions. Peasants could even accept a reduction in income if there was a guarantee of improvement in the social, health and educational conditions of the community and a market existed for alternative products.

Mr. SPIRO (United States of America) said that it was clear that in order to solve the drug problem, coordination and cooperation was needed on the part of the whole system, involving international financial institutions, local governments and other parties.

The point made by the representative of Colombia was very important; when representatives attended meetings of different agencies, they should do what they could to persuade agencies to focus more effectively on the drug problem.

The PRESIDENT asked what kind of crops could replace drug crops.

Mr. GIACOMELLI (Executive Director, United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP)) said that that depended on location, soil quality and climate. In southern China, along the frontier with Myanmar, there were rubber plantations which could yield three times as much profit as opium; it took seven years for rubber trees to mature, and in the transitional stage sugar cane and food crops were grown. Although there had been some resumption of poppy cultivation, there was a great demand for rubber for the manufacture of condoms because of the problem of AIDS.

Elsewhere in the world, FAO could help in identifying alternative crops. A dialogue was needed with sister organizations to ensure that the drug element was included as an integral part of their projects and programmes in different countries.

The meeting rose at 4.45 p.m.

UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social Council

PROVISIONAL

E/1994/SR.30
12 December 1994

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Substantive session of 1994

PROVISIONAL SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 30th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Wednesday, 13 July 1994, at 10 a.m.

President : Mr. TEJERA PARIS (Venezuela)
(Vice-President)

CONTENTS

Coordination segment

Coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system related to the following theme: (continued)

(c) Implementation of the agreed conclusions of the 1993 coordination segment of the Council relating to (i) the coordination of humanitarian assistance: emergency relief and the continuum to rehabilitation and development

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In the absence of the President, Mr. Tejera Paris (Venezuela), Vice-President, took the chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

COORDINATION OF THE POLICIES AND ACTIVITIES OF THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND OTHER BODIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM RELATED TO THE FOLLOWING THEME: (continued)

(c) IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREED CONCLUSIONS OF THE 1993 COORDINATION SEGMENT OF THE COUNCIL RELATING TO (i) THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE: EMERGENCY RELIEF AND THE CONTINUUM TO REHABILITATION AND DEVELOPMENT (A/49/177-E/1994/80)

Mr. HANSEN (Under-Secretary-General for humanitarian Affairs, Emergency Relief Coordinator) introduced the report of the Secretary-General on the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance to the United Nations (A/49/177-E/1994/80). The Department of Humanitarian Affairs, through strong support from the organizations of the United Nations system, other humanitarian entities and non-governmental organizations, had developed a sound partnership, aimed at ensuring that emergency assistance not only saved lives, but led to the earliest resumption of sustainable development activities. The Department's work in facilitating the overall response by allocating responsibilities among the humanitarian organizations, leading assessment missions to determine urgent needs and ensuring adequate field coordination was well recognized by relief organizations and non-governmental organizations. The Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) was a key instrument for enhancing cooperation among humanitarian partners and had demonstrated its potential for quick action response to emergencies. He suggested that IASC could be instrumental in establishing a more systematic dialogue between relief organizations and Governments to coordinate bilateral and multilateral assistance and identify gaps in resources or programmes.

An essential component for effective cooperation was good leadership and support for coordination at the field level. While the United Nations system had many experienced personnel working in the field on development issues, recent experiences had shown that complex qualified leadership was required on a full-time basis for emergencies. As the Emergency Relief Coordinator, he intended to consult fully with members of IASC to appoint coordinators for humanitarian assistance for all such emergencies. The United Nations resident coordinator and the in-country disaster management team should continue to be the first line of response to disasters and emergencies. Measures to strengthen the capacity of the resident coordinator system were needed

(Mr. Hansen)

to improve coordination of humanitarian assistance. In order to ensure that coordination structures in the field were well defined and to avoid excessive layering in the chain of command, he proposed that, in situations where the Emergency Relief Coordinator, together with IASC, found it necessary to appoint a humanitarian coordinator outside the resident coordinator system, that he or she should also be designated as resident coordinator. In that regard, he appreciated the continued support for coordination provided by operational organizations through secondment of staff which promoted greater team spirit and more coherent programmes.

Emergency needs continued to grow dramatically, putting severe constraints on resources available through operational organizations. The Central Emergency Revolving Fund (CERF) had provided urgently needed resources for emergency actions, disbursing over $95 million in two years. Despite the efforts of the Department and the operational agencies to accelerate the reimbursement to CERF, the level of resources continued to be dangerously low. Past experience had shown that it was difficult to secure quicker reimbursement of contributions, and he, therefore, strongly recommended increasing the size of CERF.

In addition to sufficient resources and capacity, three crucial factors were required for the provision of humanitarian assistance, namely, gaining access to populations in need of emergency assistance, ensuring the security of relief personnel and supplies in conflict situations and finding lasting solutions to the root causes of many complex emergencies. Those elements required close interaction between humanitarian, peace-making and peace-keeping activities, referred to as vertical coordination. In many instances humanitarian actions played a crucial role in facilitating political processes and improving security conditions, in turn, vertical coordination ensured the neutrality of humanitarian action. While IASC was elaborating a set of general principles to guide humanitarian actions in conflict situations, a closer working relationship was being developed at Headquarters between the Department of Peace-keeping Operations and the Department of Humanitarian Affairs. Finally, the Department of Humanitarian Affairs was in the process of adopting measures to achieve greater clarity and greater accountability in its organizational structure and to strengthen consultative processes with its humanitarian partners.

Mr. BELHIMEUR (Observer for Algeria), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that his delegation was pleased to note that considerable efforts had been made to implement General Assembly resolution 48/57. The Inter-Agency Standing Committee had played an increasingly active role in establishing greater coordination of United Nations activities to ensure a more timely emergency response. Efforts to develop rapid-response procedures for international emergencies and to design a system to improve information management were helping to establish a more coordinated and timely intervention at all levels.

However, his delegation expressed concern with the lack of sufficient financial resources to meet the needs of the growing number of conflict-affected individuals. The dangerously low level of resources in the Central Emergency Revolving Fund threatened its very existence. Urgent measures were needed to ensure that reimbursements were made on a regular basis and to increase the size of CERF by calling for additional contributions from donor countries. Secondly, in paragraph 12 of his report (A/49/177-E/1994/80), the Secretary-General indicated that consultations were being carried out regarding the appointment of humanitarian assistance coordinators. The Group of 77 and China, which had not taken part in those consultations, had already expressed their reservations regarding that topic and hoped that the relevant General Assembly resolutions would be respected.

With regard to the link between emergency actions and development, to state in paragraph 83 of the report, that consistent and assured funding was a prerequisite for a successful transition from relief to development, was to implicitly acknowledge that it was impossible to ensure that function and also avoid lasting dependence on external assistance, a situation that the Secretary-General had warned against. In conclusion, his delegation wished to emphasize the importance of two principles contained in General Assembly resolution 46/182, namely, that the sovereignty, territorial integrity and national unity of States should be fully respected, and that the consent of the affected country should always be obtained when providing humanitarian assistance.

Mr. DETLEV GRAF ZU RANTZAU (Germany), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that it noted with concern the increasing number, magnitude and complexity of natural disasters and emergencies. As a response to those challenges, the European Union had shouldered the lion's share of the world humanitarian aid effort. It was gratified to perceive, therefore, a

(Mr. Detlev Graf zu Rantzau, Germany)

strengthening in the international acceptance of the leadership role of the Secretary-General through the Emergency Relief Coordinator. Broad participation of United Nations agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations had added to the emergency response capacity in the field and promoted issues relating to the continuum from emergency relief to rehabilitation and development. The situation in Rwanda clearly showed the need for an immediate and effective coordination of humanitarian assistance. In Angola as well, the office of the Humanitarian Coordinator and the humanitarian agencies had supported each other's work, which had made both more effective.

The role of the Emergency Relief Coordinator should, however, be clearly defined in accordance with General Assembly resolution 46/182. Structural adjustments must be made for an efficient and result-oriented division of labour commensurate with the overall mandate of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs. The European Union urged the Secretary-General to provide the fullest possible support to that Department through adequate staffing and regular budget resources. Its restructuring should be judged from the perspective of increased efficiency and performance.

Consolidated inter-agency appeals had achieved a comprehensive format, and the European Union strongly supported that process. Broad and active participation, however, required rapid assessment, prioritization of projects and realistic projection of relief requirements. The consolidated appeals process should be further streamlined to allow for faster reaction to incipient emergency situations and to allow individual projects to be more easily identified. The recently adopted practice of addressing emergency needs for immediate reaction separately from projects that moved towards rehabilitation and development seemed to be a step in the right direction.

The Inter-Agency Standing Committee under the leadership of the Emergency Relief Coordinator, was the primary mechanism for inter-agency coordination of policy issues in humanitarian assistance and for formulating a coherent and timely response to complex emergencies. IASC should meet more frequently and should be more action-oriented, and interested Governments should be informed about its meetings.

The European Union welcomed the decision to expand the scope of the Central Emergency Revolving Fund to include the International Organization for Migration. It endorsed the provisions of General Assembly resolution 48/57

(Mr. Detlev Graf zu Rantzau, Germany)

which stressed the need to retain the revolving nature of the Fund, inter alia, through timely reimbursement from contributions received.

The European Union gave its full support to the initiatives undertaken by the Emergency Relief Coordinator when called upon to act as a humanitarian advocate, and emphasized his role in ensuring that the humanitarian dimension was taken into account in overall planning of response to emergencies. In order to overcome the problems underlying most man-made disasters, however, political solutions were called for. Furthermore, the European Union fully supported measures taken to secure the safety of humanitarian relief workers.

Mr. INDERFURTH (United States of America) said that, as the number of crises to which the international community was called upon to respond continued to grow, it was faced with an ever-increasing burden in resolving conflicts and meeting the humanitarian needs of civilians. The United Nations had spent more on peace-keeping in 1993 than in the previous 45 years combined; that trend was unsustainable and could be reversed only through concerted action. The United States strongly supported the implementation of the Council's agreed conclusions. It applauded the efforts to appoint appropriate humanitarian coordinators with field experience in emergency relief and urged the Department of Humanitarian Affairs and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) especially to agree quickly on arrangements which would provide the best humanitarian coordinator for each crisis. It suggested the implementation of an information system to quantify and track needs and their response, which was crucial for saving lives. His Government was already contributing to that effort through funding of the International Emergency Readiness and Response Information System project. His Government urged the dispatching of military and civilian experts from Member States to the Department of Humanitarian Affairs and the specialized agencies in times of crisis. His Government would prepare a data bank of American personnel and technical resources to assist in the implementation of the agreed conclusions on preparedness and urged other Member States to do the same.

Coordination could be improved in the area of post-conflict transition to a more stable society. In order for peace-keeping operations to conclude successfully, programmes must be put into place to assist in the reintegration of former combatants into civilian life. The Department of Humanitarian

(Mr. Inderfurth, USA)

Affairs, UNDP and other agencies must clarify the responsibilities for demobilization and integration of combatants and, where necessary, de-mining operations. The United States wished to see a unified strategy for addressing the many complex problems along the continuum through rehabilitation and reconstruction to development. Consultations between United Nations agencies involved in the delivery of humanitarian assistance and Governments should be intensified.

It had been demonstrated that inter-agency cooperation under the leadership of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs could result in improved coordination in the field, as in Rwanda and Angola. In particular, his delegation wished to underline the achievements of the inter-agency advance humanitarian team which had entered Rwanda soon after the fighting had erupted. The team had assessed the situation, restarted the delivery of humanitarian relief, gained the support of the peace-keeping forces on the ground and met with parties to seek access to those in need. The concept of an inter-agency rapid response team should be institutionalized and put into practice more often. The use of funds from the Central Emergency Revolving Fund for that purpose had obviously succeeded in saving lives, and should continue.

The United States remained prepared to do its part to increase the effectiveness of the United Nations in responding to humanitarian crises and assisting countries emerging from agonizing conflict.

Mr. BAILLARGEON (Canada) said that the report of the Secretary-General (A/49/177-E/1994/80) had highlighted the need to define clearly the role of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs and had indicated that the new leadership was taking steps to ensure that the Department operated more efficiently and productively, and that the desired synergy was established among all partners. Now that the period of institutional organization was reaching its conclusion, attention should be focused on the Department's activities in the field.

While his delegation viewed the Secretary-General's report as encouraging, it noted that two essential elements expressly called for in General Assembly resolution 48/57 were lacking. The first element was a request contained in paragraph 11 of that resolution to establish special coordination arrangements to enable a rapid response in the initial stage of an emergency, for which IASC was to make specific recommendations so that the Economic and Social Council could make a final decision on the matter. The

(Mr. Baillargeon, Canada)

second element regarded the eventual increase of the Central Emergency Revolving Fund. Until consultations with potential donors were conducted, the Council could not rule on that matter. Therefore, in order to comply with those two requests, it would be necessary to hold a resumed session of the Economic and Social council prior to the consideration of those items by the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session.

Mr. McKINNON (Observer for New Zealand) said that the discussion in the Secretary-General's report on the interaction between the political, humanitarian and security dimensions of complex emergencies had been very useful. That area involved important issues of principle, and clear direction from Member States was needed. Where a political or security breakdown was the root cause of an emergency, the political, security and humanitarian aspects could not be dealt with in isolation. In those situations, which were unfortunately becoming frequent, coordination must be directed at injecting the appropriate humanitarian perspectives into overall United Nations efforts in peace-keeping.

In his report, the Secretary-General had coupled that aspect with the objective of preserving the unique identity and the neutrality and impartiality of the humanitarian component of peace-keeping operations. Such operations themselves were neutral and impartial, and from that they derived their strength and authority. There was a risk of political involvement in their humanitarian component, but the problems could not be solved by separating that component from overall United Nations efforts. A political effort was required to achieve a solution. The solution to coordination issues lay in ensuring the full integration of the humanitarian component at both the decision-making and at the operational levels. At the decision-making level, the Department of Humanitarian Affairs had an important responsibility to communicate the humanitarian aspects clearly and effectively to Member States and the Security Council. At the operational level, there was a need for close interaction among the political, peace-keeping and humanitarian components of an operation. He was pleased that IASC had established procedures for cooperation, information, joint planning and logistical and operational guidelines for the field.

Regarding cooperation in the field, the decision by UNDP to expand the number of individuals qualified to serve as field coordinators had been a

(Mr. McKinnon, New Zealand)

sensible one. Arrangements for field coordination should build on the resident coordinator system to the extent possible so as to avoid the creation of parallel field structures.

Regarding the safety of personnel, his delegation hoped that the ad hoc Committee would complete elaboration of the new mechanism for the protection of personnel, including humanitarian relief personnel. On the subject of land mines, he was stunned by the immense scale of the problem - 90 million land mines were left in the ground in many areas throughout the world. New Zealand had deployed a mine clearance team to Afghanistan and was preparing to send one to Mozambique.

Mr. OKALI (United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)) said that, because of its activities in the reconstruction and rehabilitation of settlements in the aftermath of natural and man-made disasters, Habitat had been invited to become a member of the IASC task force on the relief-to-development continuum, with the aim of developing a conceptual and operational clarification of the continuum and establishing an operational framework for inter-agency cooperation. Recent operational activities in Afghanistan, Somalia, Southern Lebanon, Rwanda and Burundi reflected Habitat's current focus on assistance to countries affected by war and civil strife.

Conscious that a more comprehensive United Nations response and inter-agency cooperation in humanitarian assistance would yield better results and increase the scope of assistance rendered, Habitat had joined forces with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), also located in Nairobi. Those agencies had established a joint task force on the relief-to-development continuum. Their cooperation had already resulted in identification and appraisal of complementary continuum expertise and experience, its dissemination to the rest of the United Nations system and interested Governments, joint missions in Kenya and Burundi and proposals for future joint missions to Mexico and Guatemala and to Burundi, Tanzania and Rwanda as part of the preparations for an anticipated post-conflict rehabilitation and reconstruction programme. Those activities reflected Habitat's determination to contribute effectively to the United Nations response to challenges in the field of humanitarian assistance and to coordinate its operations with other United Nations organizations and programmes.

Mrs. HORIUCHI (Japan) said that Japan believed that coordination of humanitarian assistance could be strengthened if cooperation and coordination between humanitarian agencies was improved. The revitalization of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee thus was essential, and the ability of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs to coordinate must be further enhanced. Japan, however, strongly opposed the idea of making that Department an implementing agency with operational responsibility in the field.

With reference to coordination of rapid response to emergencies, situations sometimes arose in which no humanitarian agency was on the scene. The question of how to respond before the operational agencies began their work must be addressed on an urgent basis. The Department should withdraw from activity at the field level once the operational agencies began their work and a lead agency was appointed. Her delegation requested further information on the problem of rapid response and issues related to field coordination.

Japan hoped that CERF would be utilized effectively under the conditions laid down in General Assembly resolution 48/57. The desirability of increasing the resources available to the Fund should be further explored, and discussion should continue on how to utilize the Fund effectively and increase utilization of reserves or emergency funds of the operational agencies.

Mr. JOHNSON-SIRLEAF (United Nations Development Programme), referring to the remarks by the new Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and UNDP statements in the Inter-Agency Standing Committee and the Joint Consultative Group on Policy (JCGP), affirmed the Programme's commitment to strengthening the resident coordinator system. To that end, it would make every effort to ensure the recruitment of top candidates from a wider pool of applicants, including those from other agencies of the United Nations system. The selection process would be efficient and transparent. It would take place in consultation with the JCGP agencies and with the Department of Humanitarian Affairs in the case of emergency countries. Where a resident coordinator proved to be unsuitable - as in the case of Rwanda - a replacement would be found with a minimum of delay. If a suitable candidate could not be identified, the Emergency Relief Coordinator would appoint a separate humanitarian coordinator, who, if appropriate, would also become the resident coordinator. That process was consistent with General Assembly resolutions 46/182, 47/199 and 48/209, which formed the basis for coordination of

(Mr. Johnson-Sirleaf)

United Nations system operations at the field level. It was also consistent with the agreed conclusions of the 1993 coordination segment of the Council, which named the United Nations Resident Coordinator and the disaster management team as the first line of response to disasters and emergencies. UNDP agreed with the statements on coordination at the field level contained in the report of the Secretary-General (A/49/177-E/1994/80, para. 12).

The fundamental causes of complex emergencies were developmental in nature - the weakening of institutions, the absence of opportunities for sustainable livelihoods and the need for improved management at the grass-roots level. Emergency assistance was the short-term solution, but the only long-term solution was development assistance. Short-term budgetary support provided by emergency assistance ultimately weakened institutions. Emergency assistance also caused distortion of the labour and domestic commodities markets, which was another threat to long-term development. A balance must be struck between immediate and effective action and the participation of national and community-level institutions. The mobilization of resources, too, must focus not only on emergency relief assistance but also on rehabilitation and development needs. Agencies empowered to assess relief requirements should learn to assess development and rehabilitation needs as well.

In cooperation with the Department of Humanitarian Assistance, UNDP had been providing disaster-management training to its own staff, to the senior staff of other United Nations agencies and bilateral agencies and to national officials and experts. In certain cases, it was using its own indicative planning figures and special programme resources for emergency-related capacity-building.

Mr. LANGENBACHER (Observer for Switzerland) said that the report of the Secretary-General must be considered in the light of the ongoing reorganization of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs at the Headquarters level between New York and Geneva. Switzerland hoped that that process would continue to be guided by the relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and of the Council, which named the Inter-Agency Standing Committee as the coordinating body in emergencies. It was also to be hoped that IASC could deal effectively with complex emergencies and that it would not be necessary to create large-scale structures in New York, which would involve the Department of Humanitarian Affairs in operations. As most of the

(Mr. Langenbacher, Switzerland)

humanitarian agencies were located in Geneva, the Department remained responsible for coordinating operational activities both in Geneva and in the field.

Further attention must be focused on coordination at the field level. Based on the relevant General Assembly resolutions, he assumed that the humanitarian coordinator would function as, or report to, the Resident Coordinator. The Department of Humanitarian Affairs would have to seek the cooperation of UNDP and the IASC humanitarian agencies in recruiting the most qualified candidates. Common rosters and pools of qualified candidates and joint training programmes would be vital to the process.

With regard to the continuum to development ensured by coordination between the resident coordinator system and humanitarian operations, Switzerland was looking forward to the conclusions of the IASC task force on the consolidated appeal process. That study and UNDP studies on the topic should be aimed at closer coordination among the resident coordinator system, operational activities for development and the humanitarian activities of the United Nations system. Improved reporting on the progress of humanitarian operations and regular financial tracking under the consolidated appeal system could enhance donor financing. That, in turn, would enable agencies to refund advances received from CERF. A thorough review of the consolidated appeal process and CERF and their mutual relationship should be undertaken before considering an increase in CERF resources.

Mr. PETERS (Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)) said that coordination mechanisms should be as lean as possible. The proliferation of inter-agency coordinating bodies, committees, working groups and task forces and their extensive agendas could actually reduce the effectiveness of field activities. Coordination structures must also be adapted to specific situations; the situation on the ground should determine the roles played by the resident coordinator, the humanitarian coordinator and the specific agencies. UNHCR, as coordinator of emergency assistance, fully supported the proposals concerning field-level coordination mechanisms put forward by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs. The viability of that proposal had been demonstrated by the model adopted in response to the Rwanda crisis. A clear division of labour, on the basis of each agency's comparative advantages, would ensure complementarity.

(Mr. Peters)

In the case of complex emergencies, procedures for establishing the division of labour at the early stages must be strengthened.

He stressed the link between humanitarian relief and development; UNHCR often found itself in situations where it could find no suitable partner for developmental assistance. The strengthening of emergency development capacity would ensure a more rapid phasing out of relief operations and the effectiveness of the relief-to-development continuum. In Mozambique and Afghanistan, for example, operational activities agencies could ensure that the process of reconciliation and return was consolidated through sustained reintegration assistance.

UNHCR was also concerned about the relationship between humanitarian action and political and peace-keeping initiatives. Recent Security Council resolutions had resulted in a greater number of integrated operations, involving political observers, peace-keeping forces and humanitarian agencies. Improved channels of communication and early communication among all actors were essential to safeguarding the independent, impartial nature of humanitarian assistance.

Mr. HAMAD (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)) mentioned a number of innovations introduced at UNESCO, at both the programme and the programme support levels, which would enhance its response capacity. At the programme level, a unit for the education of refugees and the reconstruction and rehabilitation of educational systems had been established in close cooperation with UNHCR. An emergency operations unit had been established at the programme support level in order to mobilize the various programmes units of UNESCO in emergency situations.

UNESCO welcomed the growing support for the principle that emergency action should always be closely linked to aid, rehabilitation and development, of which training was a necessary component. UNESCO welcomed the stress laid on training and on the further development of the Disaster Management Training Programme in the agreed conclusions of 1993. It hoped that those guidelines would be translated into concrete action.

There was ample room for improvement in the education component of the consolidated appeal process under the agreed conclusions of 1993. Education was not a ready-made kit but rather a process over time which required input from many different sources. The appeal framework, on the other hand, had a

(Mr. Hamad)

short duration, involved minimal consultation and prior study and required proposals to be immediately operational. UNESCO was planning to develop a simple topology of conflicts which would enable it to design a mobile strategy applicable to a wide range of emergency situations. Together with the Humanitarian Early Warning System, in which UNESCO was a full participant, the topology would facilitate the timely planning and provision of educational services as part of humanitarian assistance.

Mr. Kwang-Jae LEE (Republic of Korea) said that his delegation welcomed the efforts made by the United Nations system to enhance coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance and the joint efforts of Japan and the United Nations in the convening of the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction. While the Inter-Agency Standing Committee was essential for resource mobilization, the transition from relief to development and the consolidated appeal process, United Nations resident coordinators must be given greater authority to handle emergencies at the field level. The Department of Humanitarian Affairs was to be commended on initiating the International Emergency Readiness and Response Information System (IERRIS) and its work on the Humanitarian Early Warning System (HEWS). A regional early warning network, which would do much to enhance the Organization's response capacity and its efficient use of resources, should also be consiuered.

In order to ensure the availability of resources for the transition from relief to development and capacity-building in affected countries, a consultative mechanism should be established among United Nations development assistance organizations, including the Bretton Woods institutions and other international funding institutions. In conclusion, measures should be taken for the protection and security of relief personnel working at emergency sites. His delegation wished to pay tribute to all humanitarian relief organizations, in particular the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and Médecins sans Frontières.

Mr. SANDOZ (International Committee of the Red Cross) stressed that coherence and cohesion were a more urgent priority than the development of coordination techniques. The flouting of all principles of decency int eh terrible conflicts of Rwanda, Somalia, Angola, Afghanistan, the former Yugoslavia and Azerbaijan had highlighted the need for political action by the international community in addition to financial support.

(Mr. Sandoz)

ICRC had recently organized a symposium on humanitarian action and peace-keeping. The symposium had brought together experts with practical experience or legal knowledge to consider specific examples of the relationship between United Nations peace-keeping operations and the activities of humanitarian organizations. It had been designed as a task for identifying problems and defining responsibilities more clearly.

It would also be vital to define other activities more clearly, including those relating to land-mines and internally displaced persons. The report of the Representative of the Secretary-General on internally displaced persons should contribute to an understanding of the causes and effects of that problem. ICRC would continue to fulfil its mandate of protecting and assisting all war victims and displaced persons with the support of, inter alia, national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies.

ICRC welcomed the designation of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs as the focal point for land-mine-related activities. ICRC was preparing expert reports in connection with the revision of the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (and the Protocols) of 1980 and was launching a large-scale awareness-building campaign through national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies. ICRC welcomed the fact that land-mine-related problems were addressed in the report of the Secretary-General (A/49/177-E/1994/80). It stressed the importance of the follow-up to the International Conference for the Protection of War Victims and the International Conference of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent scheduled for 1995.

While coordination mechanisms must be adapted to changing circumstances, certain basic criteria should be constant - or credibility and effectiveness would be sacrificed. In that connection, ICRC fully shared the concerns of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs and the Inter-Agency Standing Committee about the need to clarify roles and mandates and to mobilize resources. ICRC would fulfil its own responsibility for ensuring the coordination of Red Cross and the Red Crescent societies at the international level and for providing overall leadership for international activities in situations of armed conflict or internal strife. It would strengthen the coherence of the activities of non-governmental organizations by, inter alia, promoting a code of conduct elaborated with input from a number of non-governmental organizations.

(Mr. Sandoz)

ICRC was concerned about the mobilization of resources. It had provided data for the consolidated appeal of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs and had recently issued a quarterly statement on the financing of its activities. In conclusion, the effectiveness of emergency humanitarian assistance depended largely on the international community's commitment to the values embodied in the "new international morality for development" advocated by the Secretary-General.

Mr. CHEN Jian Ping (China) said that, while his delegation was pleased that coordination of emergency assistance in the United Nations system had improved and the Organization's capacity to respond to emergencies had been further strengthened, it was extremely concerned at the frequency with which disasters had struck in the past year, causing tremendous losses of life and damage to property in the countries and regions affected, especially in developing countries. Faced with an increasing number of unforeseen disasters, the United Nations system had been put to a severe test and had fallen short of its own expectations.

In dealing with disaster relief, the Department of Humanitarian Affairs had continued to concentrate on providing relief in cases of man-made disasters and had not placed enough emphasis on emergency assistance for natural disasters. His delegation hoped that the Department would study effective ways and means of providing emergency relief to victims of natural disasters, especially sudden, unforeseen disasters. It also hoped that, as part of the activities of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, the Department would study ways of enhancing the capacity of developing countries to combat natural disasters.

The lack of relief resources, a shortage of non-food aid and the imposition of conditions by countries providing food aid had seriously affected humanitarian emergency assistance of the United Nations. His delegation supported the Department's efforts to resolve all those problems and appealed to countries in a position to do so to provide additional assistance to developing countries stricken by disasters.

In accordance with General Assembly resolutions 46/182 and 47/199, under normal conditions the resident coordinator should be responsible for coordinating work at the country level, and special requests made by the Department of Humanitarian Affairs should be dealt with on the basis of those resolutions.

Mr. MARTYNENKO (Ukraine) said that the considerable increase in the number and scale of recent emergency situations called for concrete measures at the international level to coordinate humanitarian assistance. In that regard, the United Nations system should continue its efforts to adopt a more coordinated approach in its response to humanitarian emergency situations, both for relief and for the continuum to development. On the whole, his delegation shared the major conclusions and recommendations contained in the Secretary-General's report on the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations (A/49/177-E/1994/80).

In spite of many difficulties, the Department of Humanitarian Affairs had succeeded in improving coordination of humanitarian assistance and strengthening cooperation among the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system in their response to complex emergency situations. At the same time, his delegation was concerned that the United Nations continued to face a serious shortfall of financial and human resources needed to ensure an adequate response to the growing number of natural disasters and emergency situations. The continuum from emergency relief to rehabilitation and development should become a reality and receive adequate financing. On the whole, his delegation supported the relevant recommendations contained in the Secretary-General's report.

Serious consideration should be given to ways of increasing the resources of the Central Emergency Revolving Fund. Sources of financing should be found for developing humanitarian operations at the initial stage, provided that contributions to such activities continued to be made on a voluntary basis.

The Department of Humanitarian Affairs should also strengthen its cooperation with UNDP, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Bretton Woods institutions. That would help to solve the financial problem of strengthening the single unified approach to the humanitarian activities of agencies of the United Nations system. In addition, greater use should be made of the potential of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee.

In order to ensure the effectiveness of emergency assistance and achieve positive results, such activities should be constantly and strictly monitored.

(Mr. Martynenko, Ukraine)

That would help avoid unjustified expenditures and the duplication of activities. The Department should therefore attach greater attention to questions of inspection and control.

With respect to section III (C) of the Secretary-General's report (A/49/177-E/1994/80), his delegation wished to point out that the question of the negative effect of sanctions on "vulnerable groups in the target country" had not been sufficiently clarified, since section III dealt only with vulnerable groups of the population in countries against which sanctions had been imposed. At the same time, vulnerable groups in countries applying such sanctions also suffered from the unintended negative effects of sanctions. The inter-agency task force established by IASC to undertake a comprehensive study on the impact of sanctions should consider that aspect of the problem.

Ms. JOPLING (World Food Programme (WFP)) said that food aid was a major resource and amounted to more than two thirds of overall relief contributions. The World Food Programme was extensively involved in providing emergency assistance to African countries, including Rwanda, Burundi, Angola, the Liberia and Sierra Leone region, southern Sudan and Somalia. In those and other emergencies, the Programme had increasingly emphasized the key concerns raised in the Economic and Social Council's agreed conclusions and in the Secretary-General's report (A/49/177-E/1994/80), especially the promotion of more coherent and timely emergency responses.

WFP had been an active partner in coordination structures led by the Department of Humanitarian Affairs and had drawn on the Central Emergency Revolving Fund for emergency relief response in a number of countries, most recently in Tajikistan, Iraq and Burundi. In order to facilitate cooperation, two senior WFP emergency staff had been assigned to the Department's offices in Geneva and New York since 1992. At the field level, WFP had supported the work of the resident coordinators and disaster management teams. It had also assisted humanitarian assistance coordinators and supported the lead-agency concept in countries such as the former Yugoslavia and Angola.

WFP was already an important contributor to the early warning system of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) through its network of country offices and regular monthly consultations. In addition, the Programme was developing a vulnerability-mapping capacity, and would contribute to the coordination of food aid allocations and deliveries by collecting, analysing and disseminating information on worldwide food aid flows and requirements.

(Mrs. Jopling)

In 1992, WFP had set up an Immediate Response Account - a $30 million cash facility to fund initial food purchases. An emergency response capacity had also been enhanced through the establishment of Rapid Response Teams, the first of which had been deployed in Burundi early in 1994.

The Programme had been a partner in joint needs assessment missions and had contributed to the consolidated appeals process. Because of its highly operational role, particularly in the area of delivery of essential food supplies in situations of conflict and civil strife, WFP was currently facing many new challenges posed by complex emergency situations. The Programme had offered its full support to de-mining, demobilization and the internally displaced.

As a relief, rehabilitation and development agency, WFP was involved in all phases of the continuum. That role had been further emphasized by close involvement in refugee feeding programmes and repatriation operations. The ability to follow through the initial relief phase with rehabilitation and development assistance was expected to improve the effectiveness of WFP assistance programmes. The focus on the continuum from relief to development was being enhanced through improved prevention and preparedness and training.

The dramatic increase in the number of refugees and displaced persons as a result of civil strife and conflicts was placing major constraints on the availability of WFP relief resources. While much was being done to improve the Programme's emergency response, issues such as improved flexibility in contributions to the International Emergency Food Reserve and higher level of funding of the Immediate Response Account would continue to be determining factors in enhancing the overall relief response.

Mr. AHMED (Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)) said that ethnic conflict, civil war and the displacement of hundreds of thousands of persons were impeding the development efforts of African countries. The Economic Commission for Africa was uniquely qualified among African organizations to coordinate the post-conflict peace-building component of "An Agenda for Peace". In the context of its cooperation with regional organizations, it could collect data relating to potential emergency situations and information for future rehabilitation and development. Humanitarian assistance must conform to a macroeconomic framework such as the Master Plan for Economic and Social Rehabilitation and Reconstruction. Such assistance must no serve as a substitute for development, cooperation and integration at the regional and subregional levels, which must form part of the continuum.

(Mr. Ahmed)

Planning must take place with the active participation of the national actors who would ultimately implement and evaluate the Master Plan. The problem, however, was that African mechanisms for responding to African emergencies did not yet exist. The relevance of the United Nations system, ECA and the Department of Humanitarian Affairs in Africa would be determined by how effectively the Commission and the Department could respond to complex emergencies in the region and, subsequently, promote development.

In 1993, ECA had prepared a report entitled "Agenda on Emergency, Humanitarian, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Affairs in Africa", setting forth its strategy for the 1990s and beyond. Master plans had been formulated for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Somalia, Eritrea, Rwanda, Burundi, Mozambique and Ethiopia. In that connection, the Commission was coordinating with the bureaux of UNDP the Department of Humanitarian Affairs, other agencies for operational activities, non-governmental organizations and national authorities. ECA had been using its own resources to send missions to countries in order to prepare master plans. Perhaps additional financial resources for its initiative could be obtained within the framework of donor pledges for each country.

Mr. NEBENZYA (Russian Federation) said that progress had been made in uniting the efforts of organizations involved in humanitarian operations, enhancing the coordinating role of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee and maximizing the potential of consolidated appeals. At the same time, it was necessary to strengthen transparency and feedback between IASC and Member States.

The issues dealt with in section III of the Secretary-General's report (A/49/177-E/1994/80) offered food for thought for various United Nations bodies, including the Security Council, and also provided for closer interaction between the Department of Humanitarian Affairs, the Department of Peace-keeping Operations and the Department of Political Affairs. In particular, his delegation commended the section on the unintended effects of United Nations actions, particularly since the Russian Federation had been one of the first countries to draw the international community's attention to that problem. In particular, his delegation welcomed the establishment of an Inter-Agency Task Force to undertake a comprehensive study on the impact of sanctions.

(Mr. Nebenzya, Russian Federation)

The sections of the report dealing with appropriate and timely humanitarian response and coordination at the field level required additional work. The proposals made by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs on models for organizing coordination in the field during the conduct of humanitarian emergency operations were interesting, and his delegation hoped that the Inter-Agency Standing Committee would be able to submit its comprehensive views on the matter by the beginning of the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly.

The Central Emergency Revolving Fund was already unable to meet the growing requirements of humanitarian crises. The time had come to develop a more effective strategy for mobilizing resources, taking into account the objective realities involved in the replenishment and reimbursement of the resources that executing agencies borrowed from the Central Emergency Revolving Fund. Resources from traditional donors were no longer adequate, and his delegation therefore supported the idea of mobilizing resources from Governments that were not usually considered as donors, and also from such non-traditional donors as defence establishments and the private sector.

Those problems were closely related to the important task of ensuring social and economic rehabilitation and peaceful development in the post-conflict period. The United Nations, and in particular the Department of Humanitarian Affairs, could and should play a serious role in establishing cooperation in those fields with a view to ensuring sustainable development.

Mr. MOHAMED (Observer for the Sudan) said that humanitarian assistance had nothing to do with politics and should never be used for political purposes. His delegation reaffirmed the Sudanese Government's commitment to bring food to all its citizens, not to use food as a weapon and to continue to observe the principles of integrity and neutrality.

In its resolution 48/57, the General Assembly called upon States to respond to consolidated appeals for humanitarian assistance, taking into account rehabilitation and long-term development requirements. In that connection, his delegation supported the building of national capacities in the area of humanitarian emergency assistance in order to enable the affected countries to predict emergencies and avoid their recurrence. It was also necessary to ensure the rehabilitation of the infrastructures of affected countries in order to move from humanitarian emergency assistance to long-term development.

(Mr. Mohamed, Sudan)

With regard to the coordination of humanitarian emergency assistance at the field level, his delegation reaffirmed the principles of territorial sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of States. Some non-governmental organizations working in the Sudan had their own specific agendas that they were endeavouring to implement without any respect for the laws and conventions of the host State. In the view of his delegation, there was no reason for having a formal umbrella to protect organizations that were not committed to the laws of the host State.

The Sudanese Government had taken measures to facilitate the process of humanitarian assistance operations and increase their effectiveness. In particular, the Sudan had showed its cooperation by increasing land, sea and air corridors. Some parties to the Nairobi negotiations, held in May 1994, had committed flagrant violations, in particular through their support of rebel factions. His delegation called upon all parties to condemn the rebel movement in the Sudan and not to blame the Sudanese Government, which was working very hard to bring food to its citizens.

His delegation supported the Secretary-General's proposal to enhance and increase the Central Emergency Revolving Fund in order to enable the Department of Humanitarian Affairs and the United Nations to respond quickly and immediately to emergency situations.

Mr. CAMARA (Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations) said that FAO recognized the leading role of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs in coordinating inter-agency needs assessment missions, preparing consolidated appeals and coordinating emergency operations at the field level. While missions led by the Department focused on the immediate requirements of targeted beneficiaries, FAO/WFP assessments provided the overall food and agriculture context in which a complex emergency occurred and from which an affected population might or might not have access to relief. Such assessments revealed sources of food supply, including imports; deficit and surplus areas; the food habits and nutritional status of the population; alternative foods; prices and trends of basic foods; and the crop situation and prospects.

A constant feature of the consolidated appeals was that agricultural rehabilitation was the most underfunded item in spite of the act that, when agricultural rehabilitation was not begun as soon as possible, no basis was

(Mr. Camara)

laid for avoiding a crisis the following year. That was a major factor that led to escalating costs and recurrent emergencies. In order to have long-term results, emergency assistance must be part of a coordinated structure of relief, rehabilitation and long-term development. Emergency assistance should be provided in a manner that would be supportive of recovery and sustainable development. So far, it had been extremely difficult to obtain the resources needed to implement agricultural rehabilitation programmes in affected countries.

It was necessary to define the links between rehabilitation and the potential emergency food needs of the next crop season, in the light of development prospects in the shorter and longer term. It was obvious that the financial resources that would be required to meet future food aid needs and implement sustainable development programmes and projects would be much higher if insufficient support was given to agricultural relief and rehabilitation. The costs of meeting those essential needs were relatively insignificant compared with the cost of providing food for recurrent emergencies. In the final analysis, agricultural rehabilitation was a prerequisite for the cost-effective use of resources for development of the sector.

The meeting rose at 1.15 p.m.

UNITED
NATIONS

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Economic and Social Council

PROVISIONAL

E/1994/SR.31
12 December 1994

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Substantive session of 1994

PROVISIONAL SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 31st MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Wednesday, 13 July 1994, at 3 p.m.

President : Mr. TEJERA PARIS (Venezuela)
(Vice-President)

CONTENTS

Coordination segment

Coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system related to the following theme: (continued)

(c) Implementation of the agreed conclusions of the 1993 coordination segment of the Council relating to (i) the coordination of humanitarian assistance: emergency relief and the continuum to rehabilitation and development and (ii) coordination of the activities of the United Nations system in the fields of preventive action and intensification of the struggle against malaria and diarrhoeal diseases, in particular cholera (continued)

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In the absence of the President, Mr. Tejera Paris (Venezuela), Vice-President, took the chair.

COORDINATION OF THE POLICIES AND ACTIVITIES OF THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND OTHER BODIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM RELATED TO THE FOLLOWING THEME: (continued) (A/49/204-E/1994/90 and A/49/205-E/1994/91)

(c) IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREED CONCLUSIONS OF THE 1993 COORDINATION SEGMENT OF THE COUNCIL RELATING TO (i) THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE: EMERGENCY RELIEF AND THE CONTINUUM TO REHABILITATION AND DEVELOPMENT AND (ii) COORDINATION OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM IN THE FIELDS OF PREVENTIVE ACTION AND INTENSIFICATION OF THE STRUGGLE AGAINST MALARIA AND DIARRHOEAL DISEASES, IN PARTICULAR CHOLERA (continued) (A/49/177-E/1994/80 and E/1994/60)

Mr. WEBER (Secretary-General, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies) said that the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies had been working actively with the Department of Humanitarian Affairs since its establishment, particularly through its participation in the Inter-Agency Standing Committee. The International Federation had been encouraged by the Department's progress and hoped that it would continue. Prior to the next session of the Economic and Social Council - and preferably sooner - the International Federation would be expecting much more tangible returns, in terms both of the number of people that it would be able to help effectively and of the extent to which it would be able to improve its international relief operations.

There seemed to be much more concentration on coordination and leadership at the upper than at the lower end of the relief system. In order to carry out its higher-level functions, the Department of Humanitarian Affairs should be directly involved in field-level coordination and information-gathering during disasters. A better balance of efforts between field coordination and high-level coordination must be addressed.

One reason for the current crisis of disaster relief assistance had been the failure to encourage disaster-preparedness and community development, the first of which should be included in every consolidated appeal. In some cases, there was a need to remove the lingering hazards inherited from conflict situations. For example, the continued existence of 100 million anti-personnel mines throughout the world constituted a serious obstacle to development and also infringed on many other human rights. While the Federation and other agencies, working directly with those maimed by mines, could help alleviate the resulting suffering through partnership programmes

(Mr. Weber)

with local relief and welfare organizations, it was up to Governments to prevent the continued manufacture and use of mines and to appropriate resources for de-mining research and technologies.

The Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and national and international non-governmental organizations were under increasing pressure to act as the agents of donor policy, to shoulder the resources burden which should be borne by Governments or arranged through the private sector, or to employ expatriate staff from their home countries when local expertise already existed in the disaster-affected countries. The immediacy of disaster relief often led non-governmental organizations unwittingly to put pressure on themselves, which led to shortsighted and inappropriate work such as programmes which relied on foreign imports or expertise, projects which paid little attention to local custom and culture and activities which accepted the easy and high-media-profile tasks of relief but left for others the less appealing and more difficult tasks of disaster preparedness and long-term rehabilitation.

Recognizing the need to resist those pressures and to set basic standards of professionalism, eight of the world's oldest and largest disaster relief organizations, including the Federation, had prepared a voluntary Code of Conduct to govern international disaster assistance which was applicable to any organization. Copies of the Code were available to Council members.

Mr. HANSEN (Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs), replying to questions raised at the preceding meeting regarding arrangements for coordination in the field, said that the Department of Humanitarian Affairs expected to be able to provide the desired information before the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly. It was essential to assign the most qualified personnel to the field and at the same time to retain the simplicity of the field structure, ensuring that the objectives of the resident coordinator system were respected and that that system functioned to its fullest potential in matters relating to the coordination of humanitarian aid in complex emergencies.

As to the points which had been raised concerning resources and, in particular, the Secretary-General's proposal to enlarge the Central Emergency Revolving Fund, he pointed out that in fact the desired consultations had already begun. He had sent a letter in March 1994 to donors and potential donors seeking their reaction to his proposal. The consultations would continue, and their outcome would be reported in time for consideration of the matter at the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly.

(Mr. Hansen)

It had been suggested that the consolidated appeals process should proceed more rapidly, with greater prioritization and more specific project descriptions. However, if consolidated appeals were very detailed and took longer to prepare, it would also take longer for Governments to respond to them for the operational agencies to respond to requests for reimbursement. If the Fund were larger and agencies could begin their operations earlier, there would be more time for the consolidated appeals process. However, flash appeals issued without adequate assessments would increase the need for resources from the Fund. It was disappointing that the Fund's resources had declined, particularly in view of the likelihood that new requests would be forthcoming. However, measures had been instituted to speed reimbursement by requesting partial reimbursement to keep the fund afloat.

His Department planned to provide further details concerning its natural disaster response activities during the discussion of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction. The Department had in fact strengthened its capability to respond to such crises. The success of its investment in natural disaster preparedness was demonstrated, for example, by the fact that the 1994 cyclone in Bangladesh had caused substantially fewer casualties than the 1992 cyclone in that same country. A 24-hour disaster watch operations room had been established in Geneva, and the Department had intensified its collaboration with countries with applicable military and civil defence assets. The Department was considering how it might enhance its use of detailed personnel and other assets needed to confront natural disasters. The fact that natural disasters had claimed some 30 million lives and turned some 1 billion people into displaced persons during the past three decades underscored the relevance of the Department's preparedness and response capacities.

He cautioned against oversimplifying the question of the transition from relief to development, and emphasized that it must be developed in a conceptually sophisticated and practical manner. The Department would continue to relate its relief operations to the longer-term goals of sustainable development.

With regard to the questions concerning demobilization, one reason why there had been renewed fighting in Angola, with terrible consequences for the civilian population, had been that the demobilization process had not worked as it should have. His Department was endeavouring to ensure that the process was more successful in Mozambique and elsewhere by examining all conceptual

(Mr. Hansen)

and operational issues with a number of United Nations agencies and by developing a methodology for identifying the relevant issues and ensuring that the many actors worked together.

The Department cooperated closely with the relevant agencies in matters relating to de-mining, in particular, mine-awareness training, mine surveying and mine detection and removal. Here again, careful coordination was essential among the many actors responsible for mine clearance.

Turning to the Department's secondment procedures, he was pleased to report that several agencies had provided a good number of well-qualified staff for the Department's Headquarters and field operations. United Nations humanitarian teams were composite teams of the system as a whole. More resources and greater automaticity with respect to secondment would be useful.

He did not agree with the perception that the Department appeared to place greater emphasis on its Headquarters activities. On the contrary, it emphasized its field operations. The final measure of the success of any of its undertakings was what happened in the field. The consolidated appeals process was field-driven. He expected to be able to provide details on humanitarian relief efforts in Rwanda by the end of the following week.

Mr. HAMMARSKJÖLD (Sweden) said that it was important to have in place a smooth, straightforward and prompt decision-making process when a rapid coordinated response was needed. He wished to know how the decision-making process worked in the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) with respect to the situations in Angola and Rwanda and whether IASC also might play a role in ensuring early agreement on the division of labour in complex emergencies.

Mr. HANSEN (Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs) said that IASC was composed of the heads of the member agencies, and it was not easy to get them to meet frequently on short notice. The Committee had held two sessions during the past four months. However, the high-level IASC Working Group was in a position to meet on short notice, and dealt with issues on a day-to-day basis.

At the time the crisis in Rwanda had been deteriorating, IASC had met both formally and informally to designate the Humanitarian Coordinator. IASC reached decisions speedily through consultations, and without voting. The Committee could prove its worth only to the extent that it was perceived by its member agencies and organizations as enhancing their capacity to act.

(Mr. Hansen)

Agreements had been reached on the definition of the humanitarian mandate and on operational guidelines to assist personnel in the field. The response of IASC to specific country crises had been highly satisfactory.

IASC definitely had a role to play in systematically identifying gaps and ensuring the proper division of labour among aid-providing agencies and organizations. As an example, at its most recent session it had developed a matrix for identifying the differing situations in different parts of Rwanda and matching that matrix with the necessary resources and capacities to meet the needs of the targeted beneficiaries.

Ms. KONE (Norway) asked when IASC could be expected to present its decisions on arrangements for improving the delivery of humanitarian assistance, in particular with reference to de-mining and internally displaced persons.

Mr. HANSEN (Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs) said that he could not indicate specific target dates for decisions on de-mining activities. Inasmuch as there were some 100 million land mines in some 60 countries, the question of de-mining would remain a continuing task for IASC into the twenty-first century.

On the question of internally displaced persons, the Committee was working with the Representative of the Secretary-General on internally displaced persons, and a report on the question should be ready before the end of 1994.

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) had coordinated the follow-up activity needed on certain details of the definition reached in IASC of the humanitarian mandate in conflict situations. It was important to remember that the approach to humanitarian assistance must be adjusted as each situation requiring such aid evolved.

Mr. BAILLARGEON (Canada) reiterated the proposal he had made at the preceding meeting to the effect that the Council should hold a resumed session just before the matter under discussion came up for consideration at the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly. It was imperative, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 48/57, that IASC forward specific recommendations to the Council at its current substantive session on means and guidelines for rapid response coordination and regarding the size and use of CERF.

Mr. HANSEN (Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs) said that, in the light of the consultations under way in IASC and between UNDP and his Department, the desired recommendations would be ready in time for such a resumed session.

Elaborating further on the important elements of a rapid response capacity, he pointed out that interest earned from CERF could be used to finance the immediate dispatch of teams to set up the infrastructure required to assist a country facing a complex emergency. That mechanism had been used for the first time in Rwanda. Before the terrible dimensions of the crisis in that country had become fully apparent, an advance humanitarian team had been dispatched there, facilitating the response of the system to the emergency. He provided some details concerning the evolving situation in Rwanda, including efforts to cope with the massive flow of refugees towards Goma, Zaire, and emphasized that even though it was not possible to meet all of the enormous needs of the victims of the Rwanda crisis, the situation would be far worse had the operational agencies and non-governmental organizations in the region been unable to respond as rapidly as they had.

Mr. GORELIK (Russian Federation) said that section III of document E/1994/80 had been of particular interest to his delegation. The difficulty of carrying out a humanitarian mandate in the face of serious conflicts was the most serious challenge to humanitarian organizations. Problems such as access to aid and deactivation of land mines were not the province of any one organization. He wondered whether the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs felt that it was worthwhile to examine how the United Nations system approached the rehabilitation of countries that had suffered from emergency situations.

Mr. HANSEN (Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs) said that the meeting schedule of the Economic and Social Council did not permit its involvement in coordination of specific tasks as they were conducted; crisis action must be more rapid. At future sessions the Council might, however, focus on the lessons learned from past crises in order to prepare for future ones. In its coming reorganization, his Department planned to set up a unit for that purpose; i.e., to learn from crises and to share the knowledge gained with other actors central to the task of rehabilitation.

Dr. HENDERSON (World Health Organization) said that the problems illustrated by malaria and diarrhoeal diseases were multisectoral and required multisectoral responses. Those diseases accounted for some 4 million deaths and several million cases each year, and were particularly prevalent in developing countries among men and women of the work force, pregnant women, infants and children. In its 1993 meeting, the Economic and Social Council had emphasized that the most important focus of coordination in that area was at the country level. The report under consideration, document E/1994/60, was a response to those discussions.

The report stated that it had not been possible to specify goals, work plans, time-frames and resource needs for achieving the recommendations of the Council. It was expected that multisectoral plans would feature increasingly national control programmes for malaria and diarrhoeal diseases because of new United Nations initiatives, including the Country Strategy Notes.

At the global level, a number of collaborative activities were being pursued. WHO had worked to produce global action plans for the prevention and control of malaria and diarrhoeal diseases, providing a common base for technical understanding to facilitate national plans of action and the support of outside partners.

Specific activities were most successful in the presence of an ethic of coordination shared by all development partners. Coordination must be continuously monitored at all levels of the United Nations system and must be supported by countries.

The report stressed the importance of reinforcing consensus by limiting the number of issues on which it was sought, and of ensuring that priorities and goals evolved along with world capacities. Additional resources were needed and must not be compromised by emergency and humanitarian needs.

Mr. MONGBE (Benin) agreed with the representative of WHO that there was reason for disappointment. The statements in paragraphs 71-74 of document E/1994/60, to the effect that it was difficult to achieve results in the fight against malaria and diarrhoeal diseases, tended to trivialize the problem. The discussions in Geneva had called for a report specifying goals, work-plans, time-frames and resource needs for achieving them. The summary on the first page of document E/1994/60 gave the impression that those things had been done, but that was not the case, as could clearly be seen under section II, "Problems of implementation". All concerned organizations should reflect on whether that meant that the problem was insoluble and that the Economic

(Mr. Mongbe, Benin)

and Social Council should stop studying the question. He believed that the problem of malaria and diarrhoeal diseases was as important as that of AIDS, or even more so, since those diseases claimed more victims per year. But because only poor countries suffered from those diseases, they were given less attention than AIDS. The problem of malaria and diarrhoeal diseases must remain on the agenda of the Economic and Social Council until a solution was found.

He was astonished that some parts of the conclusions and recommendations of the substantive session of the 1993 Economic and Social Council had not been adequately covered in the report under consideration. It as essential, for example, to know whether the new malaria candidate vaccine would be effective against all four malaria-related bacteria or, if not, what progress had been made in the production of other vaccines. It was also important to know whether the vaccine would be made available free of charge, or at a low cost, so that it could be used in developing countries. Those questions were not discussed in the report, which focused primarily on the past. A disease which claimed 4 million victims a year deserved more serious treatment.

Mr. HENZE (Germany), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that improvements in the coordination of the activities of the United Nations system in the field of malaria and diarrhoeal diseases could build on the Global Malaria Control Strategy endorsed at the Ministerial Conference on Malaria held in Amsterdam in 1992. United Nations agencies and bilateral donors should support national capacity-building in the areas of hygiene and education and try to involve the private sector in the prevention of malaria and diarrhoea. Furthermore, primary health issues needed to be better integrated into sustainable development policies and reflected in new projects.

Coordination efforts must be focused at the local level in order to enhance the effectiveness of intervention against those diseases. Coordination at the country level was the most important challenge. As the strengthening of national capacity should constitute the focal point for action against malaria and diarrhoeal diseases, it should be a priority of both the countries and the United Nations agencies concerned. The role of the UNDP Resident Representative was important in that regard. Capacity-building, better coordination and integration at the country level would facilitate the formulation and implementation of medium- and long-term policies to prevent

(Mr. Henze, Germany)

and manage malaria and diarrhoea. The European Union would continue to support such policies. Its activities included the improvement of the rural and urban environment, support for regional cooperation aimed at achieving regional coordination and training and support for basic research in relation to malaria.

The Council's conclusion in 1993 on the coordination of the United Nations system's efforts to combat malaria and diarrhoea should have been more precise in order to underline more fully the coordinating role of the Council, but nevertheless represented a broad consensus that a more multisectoral and integrated approach could have a considerable beneficial impact on an area of fundamental importance to human development.

Mr. MANCZYK (Poland) said that the report had been useful, but overly descriptive; there was not enough information to permit the Economic and Social Council to give clear policy guidance. The report also showed that greater coordination at the field level was required. Because of the many factors that combined to cause malaria, potential prevention measures must exceed the strict technological context and would require inter-agency cooperation. Greater responsibility for coordination should be given to WHO, which had the technical expertise required for preventive action on a global scale, and might enact a global plan of action in collaboration with other interested agencies. Since that plan would be a long-term initiative, it could include specific targets and objectives.

Mr. BIVERO (Venezuela) said that some persistent problems remained to be overcome. There had been some progress in diagnosing the problem of inter-agency coordination, and that success must serve as an example to other areas of the system. It was difficult to make progress on the intersectoral level, and there was a tendency to divert funds to other issues that arose on the international scene. The focal point of efforts must be at the national level, and it was at that level that agencies could be best assisted in the task of coordination. Continued success in that area depended not only on the availability of international funds, but also on national willingness to assign funds to those priorities.

Mr. HAMAD (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) said that UNESCO had worked closely with WHO on the report. In January 1994, UNESCO and WHO had convened an expert meeting in Paris on the problem of combating malaria, at which it had been agreed that the problem must be situated in a holistic framework that examined the relationship among

(Mr. Hamad)

humans, parasites, vectors and the environment, and UNESCO had agreed to sponsor short-term fellowships for nationals involved in malaria research and control in order to strengthen country-level capacity-building, especially in Africa.

The education of girls and women was of particular importance. UNESCO and WHO had prepared a joint project aimed at involving educational personnel in malaria prevention and control, with emphasis on local-level development.

At its 1993 session, the Economic and Social Council had called attention to strategies for the development of human resources, and UNESCO was pleased to cooperated with WHO, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and other partners to strengthen national capacities in that regard.

In the eastern Mediterranean region, UNESCO, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and WHO, in collaboration with the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, had helped to produce an action-oriented school health curriculum.

Dr. HENDERSON (World Health Organization) said that he understood the concern of the representative of Benin, but that malaria and diarrhoeal diseases represented a deep-seated problem for development aid. The diseases were symptoms which reflected the inadequacy of investment in social sectors. In both industrial and developing countries, investments were being made in the area of high technology at the expense of rural areas. The problem would ultimately be solved by action, not by speeches.

He had found it difficult to respond to the request made at the substantive session of the 1993 Economic and Social Council regarding specific goals, time-frames and resource needs for the fight against malaria and diarrhoeal diseases. WHO had already provided that information in response to the 1992 Amsterdam International Conference on Malaria, but he had felt that the Economic and Social Council was seeking a multisectoral partnership discussion of what was required. Such a response could not be written from Geneva or New York, and the United Nations had not yet perfected its multisectoral system. He agreed that the report's response was unsatisfactory, but he had been unable simply to invent what did not exist.

With regard to the possibility of a vaccine, he wished that a magic bullet were available so that there would be no need to seek solutions in fields such as education and sanitation, but he cautioned against false hope.

(Dr. Henderson)

Nevertheless, some progress had taken place. A vaccine was indeed being developed for one form of malaria. The duration of immunity which it might provide was not yet known. There were indications of antibody response to the vaccine, but it was unknown whether those antibodies would actually protect against malaria. Multicentre trials were underway, but he could not as yet speak to the question of potential uses of the vaccine.

With regard to commercialization, since the vaccine used simple protein molecules it could, if effective, be provided at a cost of perhaps 10 cents per dose. But it was only one vaccine and other, more complex vaccines might be needed. Many agencies were engaged in an initiative to make all vaccines available cheaply in developing countries and to narrow the gap between development to actual use.

Mr. MONGBE (Benin) said that the representative of WHO had referred to the problems of financing research on programmes to combat malaria. However, the investment that was being made was mainly in research on AIDS, which killed far fewer people.

In 1993 there had been reports that a new vaccine against cholera and diarrhoeal diseases was being developed at the University of Maryland, since then, no information had been available; he hoped that WHO was working to make that vaccine accessible and usable. There could not be silence on a vaccine which could potentially save millions of lives.

The common element in prevention of malaria and diarrhoeal disease was water; the agencies should report on what they were doing to sanitize the environment that was causing malaria and diarrhoeal diseases.

Comments had been made about the organization and coordination of work in combating malaria and diarrhoeal diseases; the main objective, however, was to eliminate those diseases; quarrels between specialized agencies were of no concern when people were dying.

Mr. MALLYA (United Republic of Tanzania) said that malaria and diarrhoeal diseases were hazards which were directly related to the level of development. Governments did not have the resources to invest in prevention and treatment, and must be given support. It seemed that a malaria vaccine was being developed because malaria had affected troops from rich countries rather than because the local population needed help. There was a correlation between the direction of research and the availability of resources. Malaria and diarrhoeal diseases were easy to control once the standard of living rose, but could easily return if it declined again; another instance of that

(Mr. Mallya, Tanzania)

phenomenon was tuberculosis, which was recurring among marginalized populations in industrialized countries.

He requested the support of WHO in the preparation of country strategy notes; national capacity was low and much more coordination was needed in controlling malaria and diarrhoeal diseases.

Mr. MOHAMED (Observer for Sudan) said that malaria was of great concern to Sudan and had become epidemic in the whole region; it killed many more people than AIDS and was a threat to millions of people.

He asked what kind of report could be expected at the Council's next session. Specific country cases should be described so as to give an idea of what was being done.

Mr. JARAMILLO (Colombia) said that he shared the frustration expressed by the representative of Benin; he felt that the reason that malaria persisted was that it was a disease of the third world. Despite resource constraints, Colombia had devoted a great deal of money to the development of the SPF-66 vaccine. However, it felt that since the technology had been developed in the South, rather than in the North, it was not being given the appropriate level of support. He asked whether the problem in the development of the vaccine was a problem of time or money. If the problem was one of money, the international community should be made aware of the efforts that were being made to put the vaccine at the service of humanity.

Mr. OJIMBA (Nigeria) said that his delegation had little to add to what had been said by the representative of Benin. It found the report lacking in detail and focus; nothing was said about what had been achieved. Paragraph 74 indicated that the work of coordination remained difficult; he asked what the difficulties were.

Dr. HENDERSON (World Health Organization) said that on the question of why there was so much investment in AIDS and so little in malaria, AIDS was of great concern to industrialized as well as developing countries. There was clearly an element of self-interest. At the same time, developing countries, looking to the future, could see no end to the AIDS epidemic, while there were hopes for controlling malaria more easily.

On the question of the cholera vaccine, all new vaccines started out as exciting announcements in the press but then had to undergo a long process of checking and field trials. While the new cholera vaccine was being developed, a new strain of cholera had emerged for which there was no cross-immunity, so that the new vaccine would have to incorporate that strain, which was

(Dr. Henderson)

prevalent in India and Bangladesh. Basic investments were needed in infrastructure to control cholera; however, cholera was not a killer disease; other types of diarrhoeal diseases were killing thousands of children under the age of five.

On the question of what other organizations were doing, he said that it was not simply because the Council had drawn attention to malaria and diarrhoeal diseases that they were working in those areas. Malaria and diarrhoeal disease control had long been objectives of UNDP, UNICEF and UNESCO; the Council's recommendations had been useful in promoting further coordination. However, those recommendations had not brought in any additional resources. The bulk of resources were going to bilateral development agencies; if they could devote a greater portion of their resources to development sectors, that would yield new resources.

The SPF-66 was a vaccine that was being developed for the needs of developing countries. On the question of whether the problem was one of time or money, he said that when clinical trials and studies on the public health impact were completed, it would be possible to determine what resources were needed.

The difficulties of coordination had already been described by many speakers from the podium. That difficulty was not confined to the issue of malaria and diarrhoeal diseases, it was one of the reasons that the Council had devoted a number of meetings to coordination.

Mr. CAMARA (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) said that malaria and diarrhoeal disease control were important aspects of all FAO projects. In recent months, FAO had been developing a policy dealing with water-related health issues and was also working on codes of hygienic practice and food standards.

In January 1994, FAO had organized a training course in food microbiology for the English-speaking Caribbean countries in Trinidad and Tobago; in Belize, it was assisting the Government in its efforts to control cholera and carry out street food inspections; in May 1994, it had organized a workshop in Uruguay on street food inspections; a plan of action had been drawn up with the Ministry of Land, Agriculture and Water of Zimbabwe. In the United Republic of Tanzania, institutional support had been given to the Ministry of Agriculture. In its field work, FAO was making efforts to control vector-borne diseases in all projects. At the political level, efforts to control vector-borne disease were being included in all programmes of action.

Mr. KHAN (Department of Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development), responding to the representative of Sudan, said that the coordination segment of the Council was organized on the basis of the relevant General Assembly resolution which identified the process whereby the Council addressed specific themes in a given year, to be followed up in the subsequent year. There was no provision in the enabling resolution for the Council to address the same issues again and again. That did not mean that there could be no follow-up. The Council would need to adopt decisions and recommendations for follow-up, addressed to its subsidiary bodies or to specialized agencies, programmes or funds.

Miss JANJUA (Pakistan) said that Pakistan was hard hit by malaria and diarrhoeal diseases, which cause high levels of infant mortality and mortality in general. It was therefore a matter of great concern to Pakistan to ensure that United Nations activities in the field were carried out in a coordinated manner and had an effective impact. She agreed that more information should be provided on what vaccines were available; that was especially important for developing countries where malaria and diarrhoeal diseases were prevalent.

There was reference in the report of the Secretary-General to Meetings of Interested Parties, she asked how far those meetings had contributed to coordination at the headquarters and field levels. The representative of FAO had read out a catalogue of projects implemented in the field. However, the whole objective of the current session was to ensure coordination and interlinkage between the agencies involved. As far as future action was concerned, she agreed with the representative of Benin that the Council should continue to consider the issue in subsequent years; it needed to decide whether to do so in the coordination segment or the operational activities segment. The Council might overload the coordination segment if it continued to add on subjects.

Mr. MUSUKA (Observer for Zambia) said that many more people died of malaria in his country than of cholera or AIDS. Coordination was necessary in order to pool the results of research activities on malaria carried out by many talented scientists throughout the world. In that connection, although research on the eradication of the tsetse fly had been going on for years, it was a farmer from neighbouring Zimbabwe who had found an effective means of reducing the number of the pest. Moreover, he understood that the Islamic Republic of Iran had developed chemicals which could help to eradicate or

(Mr. Musuka)

control malaria, and he wondered whether any efforts had been made to utilize all that information for the benefit of the world as a whole.

Dr. HENDERSON (World Health Organisation), replying to the remarks of the representative of Pakistan, said that meetings at the country level had been very important in addressing epidemic situations in countries with acute emergencies. Coordination was improving at the global level. A new Director of the Division of Tropical Disease Control would take office in September, and the WHO Director-General was committed to providing more resources for the malaria effort which would enable WHO to be more active in its own outreach activities to the other organizations. The issue of developing vaccines would take time.

In answer to the representative of Zambia, he noted that the technological aspects of diseases were easy when compared to the daily coordination and investment required for control. While there was a considerable exchange of knowledge, there was no magic formula for eradicating those diseases. Indeed, his organization was now convinced that eradication should be sought only in very special circumstances. Emphasis should rather be on control to minimize morbidity. The only way of dealing with endemic diseases appeared to be through socio-economic development.

Mr. ALTESMAN (United Nations Children's Fund) cautioned against comparing the resources and attention devoted to AIDS with those devoted to malaria and diarrhoeal diseases. Concerning safe drinking water, although some least developed countries had developed extraordinarily high access to it, such access had had minimal impact upon morbidity thus demonstrating the fact that the health impact of safe drinking water needed to be part of a much more complex development process involving a whole range of other measures, including health education.

In response to comments by the representative of Pakistan, he said that the Economic and Social Council was particularly effective in the areas that cut across a range of specific sectoral issues and, hence, a range of agencies. Where the Council had had the least impact was in dealing with issues in the area of overall development policies such as structural adjustment programmes. In that connection, it was not coincidental that cholera had reappeared in Latin America following the implementation of structural adjustment programmes. Such linkages must be established and examined by the Council.

Mr. CAMARA (Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations) said that his organization's activities in the field of environmental management were carried out in coordination with WHO, the united Nations Environment Programme and Habitat. Furthermore, FAO incorporated malaria control measures in all its activities in rural areas, where malaria was more prevalent than in urban areas. As far as coordination in the field was concerned, all the organizations must work together, as each country had its own specific problems that must be taken into account.

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.

UNITED
NATIONS

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Economic and Social Council

PROVISIONAL

E/1994/SR.32
12 December 1994

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Substantive session of 1994

PROVISIONAL SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 32nd MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Thursday, 14 July 1994, at 10 a.m.

President : Mr. TEJERA PARIS (Venezuela)
(Vice-President)

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In the absence of the President, Mr. Tejera Paris (Venezuela), Vice-President, took the chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.30 a.m.

COORDINATION SEGMENT

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK (continued) (E/1994/89)

Requests for hearings by non-governmental organizations

The PRESIDENT said that, in paragraph 2 of the report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations (E/1994/89), the Committee recommended approval of the requests of a number of non-governmental organizations to be heard at its substantive session under the agenda items indicated. That recommendation had been made and approved at a meeting of the Committee on 16 June 1994. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to approve the recommendation contained in paragraph 2 of the report.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT said that, owing to a technical error, a request from the World Muslim Congress, a non-governmental organization in consultative status, category I, to be heard under item 5 (d) of the agenda, did not appear in document E/1994/89. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to approve the request of the World Muslim Congress to be heard under item 5 (d).

It was so decided.

GENERAL SEGMENT

ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTIONS: REPORTS OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES, CONFERENCES AND RELATED QUESTIONS (A/49/204-E/1994/90, A/49/205-E/1994/91, A/49/223-E/1994/105, E/1994/22, E/1994/59, E/1994/65, E/1994/69 and E/1994/86)

(c) TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT (A/49/15, vol. I)

(d) FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

(e) TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS (E/1994/32)

(h) POPULATION QUESTIONS (E/1994/28)

(j) CARTOGRAPHY (E/1994/74 and Add.1)

(l) PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE (E/1994/56)

The PRESIDENT reminded delegations that, at its 20th meeting on 5 July, the Council had agreed that the general segment, by way of experiments and without setting a precedent for future practice, would be conducted in such a way as to focus, as far as possible, on action and on the taking of decisions by the Council. It had been agreed that there should be no general debate in the general segment, without prejudice to the right of any Member State of Observer to seek to speak on any subject, in accordance with the Council's rules of procedure.

Mr. OSSA (Director, Macroeconomic and Social Policy Analysis Division, Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis) said that the World Economic and Social Survey 1994 contained an assessment of current trends in the world economy and in the different regions and analysed the policy stances being adopted. It discussed output and employment trends, international trade and financial resource transfers among the main groups of countries and also examined the global energy situation. The second part of the Survey contained a chapter on the global and regional employment outlook and a chapter on the economic and social implications of population dynamics.

Persistent and high unemployment was not only a huge waste of human resources, but was itself the cause of many social ills. While policies to increase market flexibility and provide training for the unemployed, particularly young people, were very important, they would not succeed without macro-level policies to accelerate economic growth. A more rapid expansion of output was necessary in most countries of the North and South. In its policy conclusions, the Survey suggested measures that could be taken at the national and international levels to help achieve that objective.

As a whole, African countries had not shared the momentum of growth of other developing countries and had not benefited from private capital flows, in spite of the adjustments and policy reforms that they had undertaken. There was a pressing need to provide further assistance to those countries in order to enable them to carry out their economic transformation and to take advantage of the new opportunities offered by the implementation of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations.

The Uruguay Round had concluded with an agreement, and confidence in the world trading system had measurably improved. However, the provisions of the Uruguay Round must be implemented in a way that did not negate its benefits,

(Mr. Ossa)

developing countries. Although, by and large, most countries should gain from particularly for the the implementation of the agreement, food-deficit countries were expected to be adversely affected, at least in the short term. Appropriate action to compensate food-deficit developing countries was therefore likely to be an important task of the international community.

Perhaps the main message of the Survey was that the world economy was recovering and that there was an opportunity for the recovery to be long-lasting and have a positive effect on all regions of the world.

A major concern of policy-makers was the volatility of financial markets, particularly as they affected exchange rates and interest rates. Until recently, the effects of the widespread deregulation and liberalization of financial markets had not always been smoothly absorbed. There was a danger that a financial shock would result in significant repercussions on the real side of the economy. Such a shock would inhibit or lead to a postponement of gross fixed investments. There was also the danger that efforts to dampen currency speculation through monetary measures could result in rapidly rising interest rates, and global recovery might be derailed. For developing countries, particularly the countries of Latin America whose recovery was in its early stages, money-tightening in the North could have severe negative consequences. If the recent surge in financial transfers came to an abrupt end, major new domestic adjustments would be required in that region.

Close cooperation was needed to ensure the success of world economic recovery. In the light of recent cooperation efforts, there were grounds for cautious optimism, particularly if such cooperation took the interests of all groups of countries fully into account. In such circumstances, the world economy would enter the twenty-first century on a much firmer footing for sustained growth than at any time in the recent past.

Mr. MATHIASON (Assistant Director, Division for the Advancement of Women, Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development) said that the purpose of the 1994 World Survey on the Role of Women in Development, which was produced every five years, was to provide a gender-perspective on the global economy. Like its predecessors, the World Survey reflected the work of the entire United Nations system; it had been prepared with the help of the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the International Fund for Agricultural

(Mr. Mathiason)

Development (IFAD), the International Trade Centre of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)/General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

The World Survey was expected to serve as one of the basic documents of the Fourth World Conference on Women. The World Survey was organized around three fundamental issues, two of which were issues of interest not only to the Conference but also to the upcoming World Summit for Social Development.

In the preparation of the World Survey, efforts had been made to make use of new information on trends in the role of women in development that could be used to gain an understanding of how gender impacted on the global economy. The material contained in the preliminary version of the World Survey (E/1994/86) made full use of the data that had been assembled in the Women's Indicators and Statistics Data Base, which was compiled periodically by the United Nations Statistical Division. For the first time, the Division for the Advancement of Women had been able to use gender to project the type of trends that were amenable to policy conclusions.

The final version of the World Survey would be submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session. That document would be completed within the next few weeks and would incorporate the Council's views with respect to the preliminary version.

Mr. LAWRENCE (Deputy to the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development) said that the incorporation of the Programme on Transnational Corporations into the institutional machinery of UNCTAD would promote the consolidation and integration of activities in the closely related areas of trade, finance, investment, technology and services. The principal goals were to eliminate overlap and realize economies while creating a broader base for enhancing the quality of the substantive support provided to the Commission on Transnational Corporations, the Commission on Science and Technology, the UNCTAD Trade and Development Board and the concerned subsidiary bodies of the Board. It was likely that the advantages of integration would be even greater than originally envisaged.

Interaction of New York staff with their colleagues in Geneva had already begun to enhance work in a number of areas. Moreover, in some instances, organizational structures had been created to ensure a common coherent approach to such highly interrelated issues as the provision of advisory services or activities involving enterprise development, privatization and investment. There had been some short-term disadvantages

(Mr. Lawrence)

and dislocations associated with the physical transfer of the Commission on Transnational Corporations to Geneva, and there had also been difficulties with respect to resource availabilities. The total regular and extrabudgetary resources available to the Programme on Transnational Corporations was currently about one half of what had been available when the Programme was in New York.

At the most recent session of the Commission on Transnational Corporations, the Government of Norway had made an important pledge of funding to the Trust Fund on Transnational Corporations, and other Governments should follow that example. At the same session, it had become clear that, in addition to dealing with the agreed agenda, Governments wished to review the functioning of the intergovernmental machinery and bring about adjustments that would enable the Commission to meet the needs of Governments. Much of those concerns were reflected in the draft resolution and draft decision currently before the Council. The UNCTAD secretariat fully shared the views of the Commission that changes were needed in order to enable the Commission to meet the needs of its members in the years ahead.

Mr. VRATUSA (Honorary President of the Council of the International Center for Public Enterprises in Developing Countries) said that the International Center for Public Enterprises in Developing Countries, based in Ljubljana, Slovenia, had been functioning as a joint institution of developing countries for research, training, consultancy, information/documentation and management education. According to its statute, its purpose was to promote the efficiency and effectiveness of public enterprises, as well as economic and social development.

In implementing the strategies for the 1990s, the Center had concentrated its attention on the restructuring of national economies and privatization, public enterprise reform and private and public sector interaction. Efforts had been made to ensure that the issue of human resources development, including women in development, would be adequately dealt with in all sectors of the Center's activities.

The International MBA Degree Programme for Executives and Policy-makers was a joint activity of the Center and Ljubljana University, in cooperation with other academic institution from North and South. The curriculum design of the MBA programme aimed at upgrading skills of highly qualified mid-career executives in business, Governments and public and private sector

(Mr. Vratusa)

enterprises. Special courses on environment and sea resources management as well as management of transition were an integral part of the eleven-month residential MBA programme. During the past 5 years, 117 people, including 25 women, from 23 countries had participated in the Programme.

The results obtained by the Center in the past 20 years of its existence demonstrated its ability to fulfil its function in the field of sustainable development management by generating and promoting the active cooperation of science, business and Governments at the national and international levels.

Ms. von ROEMER (International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU)) said that since the establishment of the United Nations Commission on Transnational Corporations and the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations, perceptions regarding the role of transnational corporations had changed as a truly global economy had emerged. During its existence, the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations had set high standards in its research and publications. ICFTU hoped that, with sufficient resources, the tradition of high-quality work would continue with the integration of the Commission on Transnational Corporations into the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). In future, the Commission should emphasize the contribution of transnational corporations to economic development, ascertaining which policies minimized the negative effects and maximized the benefits of business activities. Greater efforts should be made to understand how international competition to attract foreign direct investment affected other aspects of political and economic growth.

Recommendations contained in document E/1994/32

The PRESIDENT drew the attention of the Council to chapter I of the report of the Commission on Transnational Corporations on its twentieth session (E/1994/32) which contained one draft resolution and one draft decision for action by the Council.

He proposed that the Council should consider the draft resolution entitled, "Integration of the Commission on Transnational Corporations into the institutional machinery of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development".

Mr. RUNGE (Germany), supported by Mr. BELHIMEUR (Observer for Algeria), speaking on behalf of the European Union, supported adoption of the draft resolution under consideration. He noted that the European Union attached great importance to the role of transnational corporations, which

(Mr. Runge, Germany)

provided employment for at least 70 million individuals and one third of the world's foreign direct investment. His delegation urged the Commission on Transnational Corporations to continue to explore the relationship between transnational corporations and foreign direct investment, trade, technology, economic development and employment. His delegation endorsed the proposal to change the name of the Commission to the Commission on International Investment in Transnational Corporations and felt that the integration of the Commission on Transnational Corporations into the institutional machinery of UNCTAD would enable the Commission to take advantage of the know-how and international trade relationships developed by UNCTAD. The proposed integration would help to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the United Nations system in addressing international investment issues and to eliminate any duplication with the future World Trade Organization. The European Union especially supported the recommendations contained in paragraph 2 of the draft resolution regarding the future programme of work of the Commission on Transnational Corporations.

Mr. NIE Hualiang (China), supported by Mr. ISAKOV (Russian Federation) said that the Commission on Transnational Corporations had accomplished valuable work in formulating agreements and in providing the Secretariat with technical assistance. If the Commission was to be integrated into the institutional machinery of UNCTAD, it should continue to fulfil the same function. Transnational corporations occupied an important position in the global economy and should continue to play a positive role in promoting economic growth in developing countries by encouraging foreign direct investment in those countries.

Mr. BARAC (Romania) supported the adoption of the draft resolution under consideration and hoped that the future work of the Commission on Transnational Corporations would correspond to new conditions of development. National and international efforts to achieve development were increasingly based on cooperation between Governments and non-governmental sectors. In that respect, transnational corporations were outstanding partners of Governments and could offer complex support at the national level in the form of managerial assistance, improved know-how and inflow of capital through foreign direct investment. Therefore, his delegation considered it most appropriate that the title of the Commission should include a reference to international investment. His delegation hoped that the future activities of

(Mr. Barac, Romania)

the Commission would support economic growth and structural reforms in the developing countries and those in transition.

Mr. LOZANO (Mexico) said his delegation supported the draft resolution under consideration and the proposal that the Commission on Transnational Corporations become a central body for intergovernmental coordination in matters of foreign direct investment. Noting that his Government attached special importance to the reports traditionally submitted by the Commission on Transnational Corporations, he asked Mr. Lawrence of UNCTAD whether any changes would be made regarding the publication of those reports, and if he would elaborate on the new structure of the Commission on Transnational Corporations.

Mr. LAWRENCE (United Nations Conference on trade and Development (UNCTAD)) said that UNCTAD had organized activities relating to transnational corporations into a separate division, in line with Governments' requests that those activities retain a separate identity within the overall machinery of UNCTAD. At the same time, UNCTAD had sought to ensure adequate interfacing between the activities of that division and related activities within the Secretariat. In that regard, a common advisory service that dealt with interrelated issues of investment, transnational corporations and technologies had been established and the questions of privatization and enterprise development had been incorporated into the division on transnational corporations. With regard to the publication of reports, UNCTAD expected to sustain the rhythm of the reports traditionally prepared by the Commission on Transnational Corporations, both in number and, most importantly, in quality.

The PRESIDENT said that if he heard no objection he would take it that the Council wished to adopt the draft resolution on the integration of the Commission on Transnational Corporations into the institutional machinery of the United Nations Conference on trade and Development, contained in chapter I of the report of the Commission on Transnational Corporations (E/1994/32).

The draft resolution was adopted.

The PRESIDENT drew attention to the draft decision entitled "Report of the Commission on Transnational Corporations on its twentieth session and provisional agenda and documentation for the twenty-first session of the Commission", contained in chapter I, section B, of the report of the Commission on Transnational Corporations (E/1994/32).

(Le President)

He said that if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt the draft decision.

The draft decision was adopted.

Recommendations contained in document E/1994/22

The PRESIDENT drew the attention of the Council to the report of the Committee for Development Planning on its twenty-ninth session, contained in document E/1994/22. In chapter V, section B, of that document, the Committee had recommended that two new countries, Angola and Eritrea, should be added to the list of least developed countries; that Botswana should be graduated form the list immediately; and that Vanuatu should be graduated from the list in 1997, conditional upon a review in that year.

He said that if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council agreed to those recommendations.

It was so decided.

Recommendations contained in document E/1994/28

The PRESIDENT drew the attention of the Council to the report of the Population Commission on its twenty-seventh session, contained in document E/1994/28. That report contained one draft resolution entitled, "Work programme in the field of population".

He said that if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt the draft resolution on the work programme in the field of population.

The draft resolution was adopted.

The PRESIDENT drew the attention of the Council to chapter I, section B, of the report of the Population Commission which contained a draft decision entitled, "Provisional agenda and documentation for the twenty-eighth session of the Population Commission".

He said that if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt the draft decision on the provisional agenda and documentation for the twenty-eighth session of the Population Commission.

The draft decision was adopted.

Recommendations in document E/1994/74

The PRESIDENT drew the attention of the Council to the report of the Secretary-General on the Thirteenth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific, contained in document E/1994/74. In

(The President)

chapter II of that report, the Conference recommended that the Economic and Social Council should (a) endorse its recommendation that the Fourteenth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific should be convened for five working days in mid-1997, with the primary focus on the contribution of surveying, mapping and charting in support of the implementation of Agenda 21; and (b) request the Secretary-General to take measures, where appropriate, to implement the other recommendations made by the thirteenth United Nations Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific; in particular, within available resources, the United Nations should continue to support surveying, mapping and charting activities in the Asia and Pacific region and inter alia facilitate the participation of the least developed countries and the small island developing States of the region.

Mr. NIE Hualiang (China), supported by Mr. Vonil CHO (Republic of Korea), said that his delegation greatly valued the work of the Thirteenth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific, and fully endorsed all the resolutions adopted at that Conference, including the recommendations made to the Council. His delegation urged the United Nations to facilitate the implementation of all resolutions adopted at the Conference and believed it was beneficial to hold future conferences outside Headquarters. In that regard, his delegation hoped the United Nations would engage in active consultations with countries in the Asia and Pacific region to enable them to participate as host countries for future conferences.

The PRESIDENT said that if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt the recommendations to the Economic and Social Council contained in chapter II of the report under consideration.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 11.50 a.m.